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A CENTURY AND A HALF
OF JEWISH HISTORY

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A CENTURY AND A HALF OF JEWISH HISTORY

EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTE BOOKS OF
THE LONDON COMMITTEE OF DEPUTIES
OF THE BRITISH JEWS

BY
CHARLES H. L. EMANUEL, M.A.

SOLICITOR AND SECRETARY OF THE LONDON COMMITTEE
OF DEPUTIES OF THE BRITISH JEWS

LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS, LIMITED
BROADWAY HOUSE, LUDGATE HILL
1910

INTRODUCTION

SOME introduction is necessary to this book, if only to explain its title. The Jewish Board of Deputies attains the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its foundation this year. The Minute Books, which contain a record of its work from the date of its first meeting on the 19th November, 1760, are stored away, practically neglected, in my safes, and it occurred to me that to peruse these records and publish an extract from them might form an interesting though modest contribution to the celebration of the anniversary in question. Seeing that the Board has, throughout, been the only representative Body of the Jews in this country, its history incidentally comprises the greatest part of the civil history of Anglo-Jewry, and this is my excuse for the title.

Had my leisure been less inelastic, and space permitted, it would have been interesting to have gone further into detail than I have done, and it has been suggested that a complete list of Deputies and their constituencies throughout the hundred and fifty

years might have been inserted in the book ; but with a Board now consisting of some hundred and twenty members, and with fresh names added at each triennial election, this would have entailed a larger sacrifice of space than could be spared ; while the list must necessarily have been supplemented by some biographical details of the more important or more interesting names, which would have increased the difficulty. It would certainly have been a fascinating study to search for particulars of the identity and lives of, say, the pre-Victorian Deputies, and particularly of the early Spanish and Portuguese members of the Board. What finer character, for instance, than Benjamin Mendes da Costa, one of the original seven members, who spent £3000 a year in charity, without distinction of creed, and whose Will was a masterpiece of philanthropy ! Unfortunately, his life was only spared to the Board for four short years, and the Board had to wait for Sir Moses Montefiore for his rival. Since then generation has succeeded generation, and, without show or fuss, the Board has made, and continues to make, Jewish History.

This introduction could not fairly close without some reference to the men who direct the Board's present efforts. To the untiring personal efforts and attention of its President (Mr. D. L. Alexander, K.C.)

and of its Vice-Presidents (Messrs. Leopold de Rothschild and H. S. Q. Henriques), is mainly due the present satisfactory position of the Board.

The desire to see this book published by the date of the Anniversary must be my excuse for any errors which have crept into it. I have pleasure in expressing my best thanks to Mr. J. M. Levy, Treasurer of the Board, who has, amid his other duties, spared time to assist me with his advice and corrections.

CHARLES H. L. EMANUEL.

November, 1910.

A CENTURY AND A HALF OF JEWISH HISTORY

GATHERED FROM THE MINUTE BOOKS OF THE
JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

THE London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews (commonly known as "the Jewish Board of Deputies") had its origin in the following Resolution passed by the Gentlemen Elders of the Portuguese Congregation (the Portuguese "Nation," as it was then styled) on 24th Heshvan, and confirmed on 12th Kislev, 1760 :—

"That 7 Gentlemen of this body be appointed. That it be left to 3 of them to consider what should be done on the present occasion to testify to His Majesty (Geo. III) our homage; and thereafter to deal with the most urgent matters which present themselves in connection with our Nation. And that the said Gentlemen should not seek for new privileges for such Nation without first communicating the matter to the Elders. And that the said Gentlemen have power to confer with any persons whom they should think necessary. But that no business be transacted unless one of the three said Gentlemen be present."

The names of the members of the Committee of seven were : Jacob de Moseh Franco, Benjamin

Mendes da Costa, Jacob Nunes Gonsales, Moseh de Joseph da Costa, Joseph Jesurun Rodrigues (better known as Joseph Salvador), Isaac Jesurun Alvares, and Isaac Fernandes Nunes.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on 19th November, 1760, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Benjamin Mendes da Costa. The Committee resolved that in accordance with the recommendation of the Elders a dutiful address should be presented to His Majesty George III on his accession and the death of His late Majesty; that Mr. Joseph Salvador should pay his respects to the Lord Chamberlain (the Duke of Devonshire), and should seek his advice as to the best means of proceeding with the recommendation, and that if he were willing a deputation from the Nation should wait upon him. Mr. Salvador was able the next day to report that his reception had been favourable, and that the Lord Chamberlain had spoken in most complimentary terms of the Nation, and advised that a Deputation should wait on the Prime Minister before completing their arrangements. He himself graciously consented to receive a deputation from the Committee who begged him to assure His Majesty of the loyalty of the Community of Portuguese Jews, and to convey to him their congratulations. In due course, the Committee was informed through the Duke that His Majesty had received the Jewish congratulations with extreme pleasure, and assured the Community of the esteem in which he held it, and that he would always keep it in his favour.

On the 26th November the Committee held its first business meeting, and considered a letter received from the Jamaica Community, the nature of which can only be gathered from the reply.

It was resolved to reply that sympathy should be expressed with the Jews of Jamaica in their trouble, and that all possible assistance should be promised, but that, owing to the death of the King, the Portuguese Community was not sure of its own footing. That counsel would be taken with Governor Littleton, who was considered to be a friend of the Jews—and that the Jews of Jamaica must remember that so long as martial law was in force, it was their duty to obey without question such orders as were published, even though it involved the desecration of the Sabbath.

Messrs. Gonsales and Salvador interviewed the Governor who was in England at the time, and he promised to do what he could. ३

Sunday, 7th December, was a momentous day in the history of the Board, for came Mr. A. Franks to the Committee in the name of the German Jews to complain that the Portuguese Jews had approached His Majesty and had left them in the cold. A special meeting of the Committee was thereupon called, and Mr. Franks was asked to attend, and came, accompanied by Mr. Levy Salomons. It was pointed out that what had been done was according to precedent, and that the address was proper in form, as it spoke in the name of the Portuguese Jewish Nation only, and that the German Jews on their part could follow suit, if they so desired. If, however, they desired to join with the Portuguese in paying court to the Princess and the Royal Family, their co-operation would be welcomed. To this they agreed, and asked at the same time that in future it should be a rule “that each Nation should communicate to the other what they were doing in public affairs.” The Portuguese, however, pointed out that this

presented a difficulty, for the German Jews had no organized Committee to whom communication could be made. The difficulty was met by the Germans agreeing to nominate a Committee like that of the Portuguese. This basis of a working arrangement was sealed, and Messrs. Salvador and Franks went together to the Palace and kissed hands with the Princes and the Duke of York and the Princess Augusta.

On 14th December the Committee received the names of the "German Secret Committee for Public Affairs," as follows :—

For Duke's Place—Mr. Aron Franks, Mr. Naph-tali Franks, Mr. Moses Franks, and Mr. Michael Adolphs.

For the Synagogue in Magpie Alley—Mr. Henry Isaac, Mr. Levy Salomons and Mr. Abraham Elias.

It was resolved that in all public matters of interest to the two Nations each Committee should communicate with the other. It was further resolved to report what had happened to the Gentlemen of the Mahamad, and that leave should be asked to spend money, if necessary.

To clinch the bargain, a letter was addressed to the German Jews, informing them that in accordance with their desire the Committee took note of the names of their Committee, and had made the following entry in their books, namely :—

"Dec. 14, 1760.

"Resolved that whenever any public affair should offer that may interest the two Nations, we will on our parts communicate to the Committees of the Dutch Jews' Synagogues what we may think proper should be done, and that

we desire the said Gentlemen may do the same to make a Minute thereof."

Then followed the names of the Portuguese Committee with Mr. Benjamin Mendes da Costa as President or Chairman.

In the same year there was some talk of a new form of Oath of Allegiance, and, accordingly, five representatives from the Portuguese and two from the German or Dutch Jews met to examine the question, and did so, and resolved that nothing should be done at present.

Having thus co-operated, "the Deputies" (the first mention of the title which has ever since been retained by the members of the Board) of the Portuguese continued their investigation into the troubles of the Jamaican Jews, which were increasing. Governor Littleton, however, gave information that instructions in favour of the Jews had already been sent out. The new trouble consisted of a proposal to levy a special tax on the Jews. This, however, was rejected in the Assembly by fifteen to thirteen. There seems also to have been some order made that they were to serve in the militia, and probably the Sabbath labour which this involved was the origin of their original application. They were advised by their brethren in England not to raise any objection to this service.

1766] No further meeting of either body is recorded until 8th January, 1766, when the Portuguese Deputies met to consider a Bill affecting the position of Brokers, which was, however, found to be reasonable, and it was resolved that some slight amendment only should be put forward.

In May the same Deputies again met to consider

an appeal from the Jews of Port Mahon, in Minorea, with regard to restrictions made on the practice of their religion. A Deputation of the Portuguese Deputies thereupon waited on Governor Howard, and on his advice a Petition was addressed to the Duke of Richmond, Secretary of State. The Petition showed that on the happy restoration of this Island to the Crown, several Jews returned there with the fleet, and, as in all other Colonies, procured a room for their devotions. This, however, was in too public a street, and being very cautious of giving offence, they built a fresh room in a more private position. But the Lieutenant-Governor gave orders that it was to be closed, saying that the Jurat had pronounced it contrary to Treaty. On this being known, the pulpits were filled with invectives against the Jews, and the natives were dissuaded from trading with them, and they were at a great loss. The Deputies begged that their fellow-Jews in Port Mahon might be allowed to possess a place of worship, as they had before the French invasion, and as they had in neighbouring Gibraltar.

The Duke promised to ask His Majesty to order that the Jews of Port Mahon should be given permission to have a Synagogue, and accompanied his promise with recommendations that in return the Jews there should give up certain illegal practices of which they were suspected (with sufficient foundation to justify the Deputies conveying the hint very clearly in their reply to the islanders).

At this date the finances of the Deputies were apparently at a low ebb, for whilst formulating their Petition it was resolved that no great expense should be incurred in the matter "without knowing whence it should come."

1778 : *Joseph Salvador, President*] There is no record of any meeting between May, 1766, and January, 1778, when, in consequence of a direction from the Wardens of the Portuguese Synagogue that their Deputies should be increased by the addition of three gentlemen who were named, the Portuguese Deputies met, and after first resolving to remind the parent body that their request of December, 1760 (that they should be vested with the power of spending money), was still awaiting a reply, decided to notify the Germans of the appointment of the new members, and requested them to give the names of their Committee.

Up to this point the records of the Portuguese Committee had been kept in the Portuguese language, but all subsequent proceedings were entered in English.

At a meeting of the Portuguese Committee on 17th November, the Chairman had to complain that his letters to Baron Aguilar, a Deputy, remained totally unanswered, and he was solemnly directed to report the inattention to the Wardens. More serious was the application of the Dutch Jews for assistance in applying for some relief arising from the Act of impressing men for the King's service. It was resolved to reply that an application for the exemption of Jews from a General Act was imprudent, though it might be very proper for individuals to solicit relief in special cases.

At the same meeting Mr. Moseh Isaac Levy was appointed Vice-President and Secretary, those offices being apparently newly created. The office of President was then held by Mr. Joseph Salvador, whose name had also appeared in that capacity

in the Minutes of several of the meetings since 1760. But it is likely that at the earlier meetings the office was more that of a Chairman, and was a shifting one.

1779] An alarm of a Foreign Invasion this year caused the Portuguese Deputies to consult the Wardens of the Congregation whether it would not be proper to call a meeting of the Elders in order to obtain their instructions in such a crisis, and this was accordingly done. The Elders decided—

“That in case of an actual invasion, in any part of Great Britain, it is recommended that our Yehidim and others of our community should enter cheerfully, personally or otherwise, into such loyal associations as may be formed.”

The Portuguese Deputies (and with them voted the unresponsive Baron D'Aguilar) resolved to communicate this decision of the Elders to the Dutch Jews.

1783] The Wardens of the Portuguese Synagogue having referred to their Deputies the consideration of the following questions, namely :—

(1) The present position of the Jews returning to Gibraltar.

(2) Whether to address the King on the Peace.

(3) If we can get our Synagogue licensed by the Bishop—

It was resolved—

“As to 1. That, as no distinction was being made between Jews and Christians, there was no need to meddle.

As to 2. That, peace or war being political

concerns, 'addressing' would be taking a part in matters which the Committee ought to avoid.

As to 3. That the question of a licence should be postponed."

1789: *Moseh Isaac Levy, President*] After an interval of six years the Portuguese Deputies again met, and two Deputies from the Duke's Place and two from the Fenchurch Street Synagogues were present by invitation, and in the name of the different Committees of Jews in the United Kingdom, it was resolved to present a congratulatory address to His Majesty on his recovery. An invitation was extended to Mr. Nathan Salomons, the Principal of the Leadenhall Street Synagogue, to sign the address.

1795] After a further six years' interval, a meeting of the Deputies was held on 24th November, 1795, to consider a provision in the Sedition Bill to the effect that nothing in the Bill should extend to Roman Catholics or Protestant Dissenters, the Jews not being mentioned. The opinion of the Attorney-General had been asked as to the effect of the clause on the position of the Jews. He was obliged to return his fee, but promised that he would keep the points raised in view. Further assurances were received and, as a result, the clause was omitted. At this meeting a deputy from the Leadenhall Street Synagogue is mentioned as being present.

1800] It was another five years before the next meeting, which consisted of members of both Committees, and was called for the purpose of

a joint address to the Crown on the King's escape from assassination.

1802] Friction arose this year between the two Committees, the Portuguese declining to join with the Germans in an application to Parliament (subject not mentioned), and going so far as to instruct their attorney Mr. Pearce to take all necessary steps to see that their name was not connected with the Germans in this matter. In connection with the threatened application they sought the assistance of Mr. Hobhouse, M.P., and the following document was prepared to make clear to him the difference between the two Communities :—

Some of the principal causes of the separation which exists between the Spanish and Portuguese Jews, and the German Jews in their Synagogues and Establishments :—

“ Because the Spanish and Portuguese Jews were the first to settle in this country in the reign of Charles II (*vide* Tovey's *Anglia Judaica*), and in order to provide for their poor brethren who sought a refuge here from the persecution in Spain and Portugal formed various charitable institutions for that laudable purpose, as well as an hospital and schools, etc., for their poor, which actually exist, and are found competent to every exigence of their Society.

“ In process of time the German Jews influenced by the benignity of this Government, resorted to this country, but the Spanish and Portuguese Jews and the German Jews always considered

each other (as they actually are) separate and distinct bodies.

“First, because the charitable institutions formed by the Spanish and Portuguese Jews were solely directed to assist their brethren, who either fled from the alluded persecution, or were reduced by other misfortunes, and not for the purpose of encouraging German, Dutch, or Polish adventurers—and—

“Secondly, because in various ceremonies and customs the German Jews, differing much from the Portuguese, erected periodically various Synagogues in order to follow their own peculiar method. This, as well as the pronunciation or dialect of their Hebrew, so different from that of the Portuguese, and which rendered it impossible for them to read Prayers together, contributed to form of them two distinct (not Religious, but) political Bodies.

“In addition to the foregoing, it is necessary to observe, another cause now tends more than ever to make it the interest of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews to keep themselves a distinct body—namely, because not having increased in number their establishments remain competent to their wants—whereas within the last fifty years the German Jews have increased prodigiously in number, coming from all parts of Germany, *and mostly of the poorer class*. So that their poor bears no proportion to the Portuguese poor, who have suitable establishments and are well provided for, while they have none and want for everything. For more information on which subject, as well as for sundry other important remarks concerning the Jews, *vide* Colquhoun’s *Police of the Metropolis*, 6th edition.

“From the above it may clearly be understood why the Portuguese Jews are much interested and ought to use all the efforts and means which reason and justice suggest to them, to continue to be considered a separate and distinct body from the Germans, and consequently why they wish not to be interwoven with the German Jews in the Act which is the object of their Petition now before the House of Commons. In short, the Portuguese and German Jews cannot make the supporting their poor a cause in common with each other, because their Poor not bearing equal proportions, what would result a benefit to one would be an act of injustice and oppression to the other, independently of the Portuguese Poor being already provided for, neither are the Portuguese Jews convinced of the efficacy or Policy of the Plan the Germans have in agitation.

“Therefore for these reasons the Portuguese Jews earnestly wish and desire that the following clause may be inserted in the Act now in contemplation of bringing into Parliament, viz. :—

“‘That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to the Class of Jews denominated “Spanish and Portuguese Jews,” holding their Synagogue in Bevis Marks, in the Parish of St. Catherine Cree, in the City of London.’”

1805] The Portuguese Committee was called together to consider a libel on the Jews published in the *St. James's Chronicle*, and their attorney was instructed to demand a retraction and apology, and in default to commence proceedings. The paper refused to give the required satisfaction,

and Counsel's opinion was taken to ascertain whether there were grounds for proceedings. The opinion was apparently in the negative, for no further reference to the libel appears in the Minutes.

The same year it was resolved to address the Parnassim of the three different congregations of German Jews, stating that the signatories had "been appointed Deputados for the purpose of watching all Acts of Parliament, Acts of Government, Laws, Libels, addresses, and whatever may affect the Body of Jews," and soliciting their Congregations to join the body so that attendance of their representatives might be requested as occasion required.

It would appear from this communication, and from the long interval which had elapsed since the German Deputies had been invited to the meetings of the Deputies, that the Germans had either not been summoned or that their original zeal for co-operation had abated.

1806] In this year the Secretary of the Great Synagogue wrote to the Deputies stating that their Parnassim had been asked to convene a meeting to consider the case of a Mrs. Moss and her five children, who had been "'trepanned' [*sic*] by the London Society." That the matter was considered of national importance, and would properly come within the cognizance of the Deputies of the several congregations as a matter of vital interest to the whole of the Jewish Community. A reference in the same letter to the appointment of a Deputy for the Great Synagogue to take the place of one who was unable to attend, shows that the Committee of the German Deputies had been duly kept alive.

The reply of the Portuguese Committee was to the effect that they doubted whether the case came within their cognizance, and they suggested the facts be put before their attorney to place before Counsel on the joint account of the two Committees.

The meeting further decided that it considered it improper in future to agree to the appointment of any permanent President.

1812: *Mr. R. Brandon, President*] It would appear from the Minutes that the circular of 1805 did not bear early fruit, for it is not until 1812, when the next meeting took place, that the names of some of those present suggest that they were members of the German body. At this meeting a Bill to amend the Act for the better preventing of clandestine marriages was read and discussed, and Mr. Pearce, the attorney, having advised that it was non-injurious, he was instructed to watch the measure. At the same meeting it was resolved to seek an opportunity of waiting on some respectable gentleman among the Quakers, to ascertain their sentiments on certain Acts of Parliament likely to affect their exclusive rights of Marriages, Baptisms, and Burial. In the same month a letter from a Mr. Rose was read, referring to the practicability of extending the benefits of the then intended Register Act to the Jews, and an amendment that a letter should be sent in reply, "signed by the Senior Deputy of each Kaal," to the effect that they did not see any necessity for distinct arrangements for the Jewish nation, having been negatived, it was resolved to wait on Mr. Rose for the purpose of considering the means to obtaining the suggested result.

1817] After an interval of five years the Deputies met to pass a resolution that, "Independent of the established right of the President to call a meeting of the United Deputies of the four City Congregations at any time when he may think proper," a meeting should be called on a requisition by five members of the Board.

Later in the year there was a resolution passed to the effect that some steps should be adopted "to do away with the aspersion" on the Jews, reported to have been made by a Mr. Lockart in the House of Commons, "particularly regarding the validity of their Oath." Unfortunately, nothing appears to show what steps were taken, and with what result.

1820] To mark the accession of George IV, an address to His Majesty was prepared, the kind offices of Lord Sidmouth being solicited through Mr. Rothschild to forward the document. His Lordship stated that it might be possible for the address to be presented at a levee, and in the alternative offered his own services to convey it to His Majesty. He mentioned, however, that in this instance the Bank and South Sea Company had waived their right of personal representation, and had utilized him as the medium. It was resolved to follow such excellent suit.

1828] Eight years elapsed before the Body next sat, and consideration was then given for the first time to the question of the removal of Jewish disabilities, and a Petition was framed to the House of Lords to protect the interests of the Jews in a Bill introduced for repealing portions of several Acts imposing the necessity of re-

ceiving the Sacrament as a qualification for certain offices.

1829: *Moses Mocatta, President*] A meeting was called in March, 1829, on a letter received from Mr. Isaac Lyon Goldsmid,* who was desirous of placing before the Deputies a proposition which would materially promote the welfare of the Jews. Mr. Goldsmid attended the meeting, to give details of the steps he had adopted since the introduction of the Bill for the Relief of Dissenters, stating that the words "Upon the faith of a Christian" in the Bill placed the Jews in a much worse position than formerly. He had secured the promise of support of Lords Holland, Lansdowne, and Suffield, and Messrs. Baring, Gurney, Martin, and others, in any measure which should be submitted for the relief of the Jews. He assured the meeting that he would not take any public or decided step without consulting them. On his information, which was welcomed by the Deputies, resolutions were passed "That the present era appears propitious for the advancement of the Civil Interests of the Jews of the United Kingdom," and that so soon as the Bill before Parliament for the Relief of the Catholics should pass into law, or earlier, the Deputies should be called together to deliberate on steps to be taken for the relief of the Jews from the Civil Disabilities under which they laboured.

In the following month both Baron Rothschild † and Mr. I. L. Goldsmid attended a meeting by invitation. Mr. Rothschild stated that having taken the advice of the Duke of Wellington, the Lord Chancellor, and others connected with the

* Later, Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid.

† Grandfather of Lord Rothschild.

Government, he advised that a Petition praying for Relief from the Disabilities should be prepared in readiness to be presented to the House of Lords ; that it should be signed by natural-born subjects only, and should ask for full protection in holding and conveying landed property, etc. He strongly advised that at present nothing should be published in the daily papers, as any controversy on the subject would be fatal. Mr. Pearce was accordingly instructed to prepare the Petition for the approval of the Deputies, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Rothschild.

The Petition to the House of Lords was ready at the commencement of May, and was ordered to be engrossed ready for signature by the Deputies and by Messrs. I. L. Goldsmid and Lionel Rothschild * (by special invitation), with a Duplicate ready to be presented to the House of Commons, and a Mr. Humphries was instructed to prepare a Bill providing for the removal of Jewish disabilities. The following was the text of the Petition, as prepared for the House of Commons :—

“ To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland—in Parliament assembled.

“ The Humble Petition of the Undersigned Natural-born Subjects of His Majesty professing the Jewish Religion resident in and near the City of London.

“ Sheweth

“ That your Petitioners are severally natural-born subjects of His Majesty professing the Jewish Religion.

* Father of Lord Rothschild, subsequently Baron Lionel de Rothschild.

“That your Petitioners have witnessed with the highest gratification the relief recently afforded by Parliament for those classes of His Majesty’s Subjects who heretofore were by reason of their peculiar religious opinions excluded from Civil Trusts, Offices, and Employments, but your Petitioners apprehend that the Measures thus intended for the general benefit of His Majesty’s Subjects dissenting from the established Church of the Realm so far from improving the Civil condition of your Petitioners, may be so construed as to impose upon them further restraints and Disabilities.

“That in an Act passed during the Session of Parliament held in the 9th year of the Reign of His late Majesty for the Repeal of certain provisions affecting the qualification for certain Offices and Employments, and which Act was passed for the relief of Dissenters from the Established Church, a form of Declaration is directed to be made and subscribed by all persons desirous of availing themselves of that Act, which Declaration purports and is expressed to be made ‘on the true faith of a Christian.’

“That similar restrictive Words are contained in the Oath of Abjuration.

“That the Phrase ‘Upon the true faith of a Christian,’ contained in the said Declaration and Oath respectively, constitutes the sole ground for the various Civil disabilities and incapacities which affect your Petitioners under the Acts imposing the said Declaration and Oath, your Petitioners being fully prepared to subscribe to the same in the spirit and intent thereof, and your Petitioners are thus deprived of participation in the general benefit resulting from

the relief afforded to His Majesty's other Subjects not being members of the Established Church.

“That persons professing the Jewish Religion are permitted in all Courts of Justice to take the requisite Oath, whether as Jurors or Witnesses, on the Old Testament only, but doubts have been entertained whether in qualifying for Offices, your Petitioners can be allowed to take the requisite Oaths in the same Mode, and it is expedient that such doubts should be removed.

“That your Petitioners with the utmost deference submit that the invariable Loyalty and good Conduct of the Jewish Community entitle them to look to the Legislature for an equal measure of liberality and indulgence to that dispensed in former Sessions of Parliament in favour of both Protestant and Roman Catholic Dissenters.

“YOUR PETITIONERS therefore most humbly pray your Honourable House to take into favourable consideration the peculiar grievances of your Petitioners, and to adopt such Legislative Measures for the removal thereof as to your Honourable House in your Wisdom shall seem fit.”

The Petition was presented to the House of Lords by Lord Bexley, and the Bill was duly drafted and presented by a small Deputation to Lord Bexley and Dr. Lushington. The latter gentleman interviewed the Duke of Wellington with an unfavourable result. The Duke of Wellington's objection was that, having recently carried so important a measure as the Catholic Relief Bill, which had excited the feelings of all classes of society throughout the kingdom, as such feelings

were now subsiding, he was averse to the risk of creating animosity towards the Government by lending his support to another Bill of similar character that session. The Board was advised that if the Bill was pressed on, in spite of these objections, and was lost, its chance of being carried by the present Ministry would disappear, while the expenses would be very heavy, for the fees alone on such Bill would be nearly £200. Accordingly, it was resolved not to proceed further that session, although the support of the Duke of Sussex had been promised. From the fact that it was resolved that one-third of the expenses incurred up to date should be paid by the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, one-third by the Great Synagogue, one-sixth by the Hambro Synagogue, and one-sixth by the New Synagogue, it was clear that the Board comprised Deputies from these four bodies alone at this date.

1830] In February of this year a fresh Petition was prepared for presentation to both Houses, and it was resolved that copies ready for signature by natural-born subjects should be left at the various Synagogues. Baron Rothschild and Messrs. M. Mocatta, I. L. Goldsmid, Moses Montefiore,* and Joshua Van Oven, were appointed as a Committee to ascertain the sentiments of the Government towards the measure, and to arrange for the presentation of the Petition. It is interesting to note that the Board decided that "the Right of sitting in Parliament should not form so conspicuous a feature in the new Bill, provided the Privilege can be obtained in any other manner." On the advice of the introducer of the Bill to the

* Later, Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart.

House of Commons (Mr. Grant), copies of the Petition were prepared to be signed by Christians, and were now lying at the various bankers' and merchants' offices in London, as well as in the provincial towns.

To assist in the work a Committee, consisting of Deputies and their friends, was appointed to sit daily at the King's Head in the Poultry from 10 till 4 o'clock. The fear of the heavy expenses which had been and were being incurred alarmed the Deputies, and Mr. Rothschild's approval was obtained to opening a public subscription. The Petition was notably well signed at Liverpool by Christians.

On 30th May the President had to inform the Board that the Bill had been lost at the Second Reading in the House of Commons by 228 votes to 165.

An account of the Board's expenses incurred in connection with this Measure, presented by Mr. Pearce, amounted to no less than £979 1s. 10d., in addition to £125 4s. 6d. paid five months earlier for work done in connection with the first Petition. A renewal of the proposition to raise a public subscription was rejected.

1831] Early in 1831 Mr. I. L. Goldsmid recommended that the Petitions then lying at Messrs. Pearce's in favour of Jewish Emancipation should be presented to the House of Lords this session, and offered his services, but in view of the heavy outstanding debt, several of the Deputies reported that their Congregations could not afford any further expense, and the Board was obliged to reply that it was stopped by want of funds. In fact, the abortive Bill had already cost the Spanish

and Portuguese Synagogue and the Great Synagogue £324 7s. 4d. each, and the New and Hambro Synagogues £162 7s. 4d. each, for in such proportions had the previous heavy expenses been apportioned and paid.

At a meeting held 9th February a small Committee was appointed, consisting of one Deputy from each of the four Congregations, to assist the President in any emergency that might occur, which would not allow sufficient time for the calling of a General Meeting, but without power to commit the general body in any manner at variance with Resolutions which had been passed. This Committee, the germ of the Law and Parliamentary Committee, was appointed at the special request of the President, who stated that, in view of the difficult political situation, he had determined not to act on his individual responsibility if a crisis arose.

With the exception of an invitation from Mr. Grant that a Deputation should wait on him with regard to the Board's Bill, and a resolution that if he should advise a compromise it should be accepted, the question of Jewish Disabilities is not further recorded in the Board's minutes during the next five years.

1834] The next meeting recorded was in May, 1834, when a Committee was formed to frame amendments to the Poor Law Amendment Bill, so as to allow Parochial relief to be given to Jewish poor without violation of their religious scruples. The points desired were that there should be exemption from work for Jewish paupers on Sabbaths and Holy Days, and that they should be permitted to have their own special food. Lord

Althorp, to whom the Committee went in Deputation, promised that the points should not be overlooked, but was of opinion that the Poor Law Commissioners would have sufficient powers to afford the required relief.

1835] *Mr. Moses Montefiore, President*] This year was notable for the appointment of a Committee to frame the Board's first Constitution. The result of their deliberations is shown in the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by the Deputies :—

“ 1. That this Meeting is convinced it would be of essential advantage to the interests of the Jews of Britain, that in all matters touching their political welfare they should be represented by one Body, and inasmuch as the general Body of Deputies have long been recognized as their representatives, it is highly desirable for the general good that all the British Jews should so acknowledge them, having a sufficient number of Members from each Congregation to ensure the accordance of their proceedings with the general wishes of the Jews.

“ 2. That this Body be intitled ‘Deputies of the British Jews,’ and composed of the following Members :—

7 Deputies from the Portuguese Synagogue.			
7	„	„	Great „
4	„	„	Hambro „
4	„	„	New „

“ 3. That in all cases which may tend to protect and promote the welfare of the Jews, the Deputies shall be authorized to adopt such

measures as they may deem proper, in order to obtain such objects.

“ 4. That the meetings of the Deputies shall at all times be summoned by the President.

“ 5. That whenever a requisition signed by five members of the Jewish Deputies shall be presented to the President for the purpose of calling a meeting, and stating the object for which such meeting is desired, the President shall convene such meeting within seven days of the receipt of the Requisition.

“ 6. That the summonses to all Meetings shall be sent to each Deputy at least three days prior thereto, except in cases of exigency. And if on requisition, the object of the intended meeting shall be stated.

“ 7. That at all Meetings seven form a Quorum.

“ 8. That all questions shall be decided by show of hands, and that whenever the numbers shall be equal, then, and in such case only, shall the President vote, which he shall be required to do.

“ 9. That all expenses for conducting the affairs of the Deputies shall be defrayed in the following manner :—

$\frac{1}{3}$	by the Portuguese Synagogue.	
$\frac{1}{3}$	„ Great	„
$\frac{1}{6}$	„ Hambro	„
$\frac{1}{6}$	„ New	„

“ 10. That whenever any of the Congregation of Jews in the United Kingdom shall be desirous of sending their Deputies for the purpose of uniting with this Body, such Deputies shall be admitted as part of the Deputies of the British Jews, and shall be required to furnish such pro-

portion of the Expenses as shall be considered equitable.

“ 11. That the Deputies representing the above-mentioned Synagogues shall be furnished with copies of this form of Constitution, which they shall present to their respective Synagogues for their approval, and to be confirmed by their Authority in writing, signed by the Secretary of each Synagogue, and which intimation shall also convey to the Deputies the names of their respective Representatives.

“ 12. That the Synagogues sending Deputies shall every five years proceed to a New Election of Deputies, and the names of those so elected shall be communicated to this Body by the Secretaries of the different Synagogues.”

1836] This Constitution was approved on the 7th March, 1836, by the four Congregations, with a proviso that the expenses should be limited as follows :—

Portuguese Synagogue	£100
Great	„ £100
New	„ £50
Hambro	„ £50

Invitations were issued to the St. Alban's Place (London) and Liverpool Synagogues to elect Deputies, and the President was empowered to issue further invitations to such Congregations as were of sufficient size to merit them.

At this period the Board turned its attention to the “ Affinity of Marriage Act,” endeavouring to obtain an amendment permitting the Jews to have exemption so far as their own laws of affinity permitted, and to the Marriage Bill, Clause 15 of

which would, in the opinion of Drs. Hirschel and Meldola (the ecclesiastical chiefs, who specially attended a meeting of the Board), militate harshly against the Jews. A Petition was prepared and presented to Lord John Russell, asking for the exemption of the Jews from the objectionable clause, and a resolution was passed that with this one exception the Board approved the inclusion of the Jews, in common with Dissenters, in the provisions of the Registration and Marriages Bills.

In May the St. Alban's Place Synagogue joined the Board and elected two Deputies, and at the same meeting it was resolved to inform the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the Board was the only official channel of communication for the secular and political interests of the Jews, at the same time asking for a copy of the Bill which he intended to introduce for the removal of their civil disabilities.

This year the Acts passed which gave the Board its first Statutory recognition, namely, the Marriage Act (6 and 7 Will. IV, Cap. 85), and the Registration Act (6 and 7 Will. IV, C. 86). The latter measure provided a means of registering marriages, and Clause 30 enacted that the Registrar-General should furnish marriage registers to every person whom the President for the time being of the London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews should certify in writing to be Secretary of a Synagogue in England of persons professing the Jewish religion. Clause 31 enacted that every such Secretary of a Synagogue should immediately after every marriage solemnized between any two persons professing the Jewish religion of which the husband should belong to the Synagogue whereof he was Secretary, enter particulars of the same in duplicate

in his marriage registers, having satisfied himself that the proceedings in relation thereto had been in conformity with the usages of persons professing the Jewish religion.

In June a "meeting of British Jews," held at the house of Mr. David Salomons,* passed a resolution inviting the active assistance of all Jews in promoting the passing of the Jews' Relief Bill, and that the Deputies be requested to co-operate. Seeing that the Deputies had already taken active steps in the matter for many years past at a very heavy expense to their constituent Congregations, the "invitation" from an outside body might have been resented. However, the Deputies extended a courteous invitation to Mr. David Salomons, and any of "the few gentlemen" who had met to pass the resolution who so desired, to a conference to be held later with their Body, and a pressing invitation was also extended to Mr. I. L. Goldsmid and his son, Mr. F. H. Goldsmid, to co-operate.

The Conference took place, and besides the Deputies, there were present, in answer to the Board's invitation, Messrs. D. Salomons, I. L. Goldsmid, F. H. Goldsmid, and B. Van Oven. As a result, a sub-committee of the Deputies was appointed to co-operate with not more than six persons outside the Deputies, but it was resolved that the Deputies could not hold themselves responsible for further expenses of supporting the Bill. However, those Deputies present generously raised at the meeting a fund for the purpose, of one hundred guineas.

In December the President was formally notified by the Registrar-General of his duties under the

* Later, Sir David Salomons, Bart.

Registration Act, and the Board circulated the provisions of the Act in question among all the Jewish Congregations, and at the same time called their attention to the objects of the Society, and invited them to "entrust their political interests to the Deputies, as recognized representatives of the Jews."

At this date the Maiden Lane Synagogue joined the Board. A motion that a more extended constituency was necessary for the election of the Board, and that the Deputies should therefore resign with a view to re-election on a more popular basis, was negatived, the Board, no doubt, being of opinion that at such an anxious political juncture it was not the time to change horses.

1837] In July of this year the Board, having decided to expend up to £50 a year in payment of the salary of a paid Secretary, engaged Mr. Sampson Samuel at a remuneration of £30 a year.

In the same year the Board was keenly interested in a Bill introduced into the Commons by Mr. Buxton to correct a doubt which existed as to whether the Marriages within the Prohibited Degrees Act (5 and 6 Will. IV, Cap. 54), which made void (instead of merely voidable, as formerly) marriages within certain degrees of affinity, affected Jewish marriages. The intention was to place Jewish marriages outside the prohibition. The Bill failed to pass. The question of the submission of Jewish marriages to the provisions of this Act was the subject of a carefully considered memorial by Mr. Sampson Samuel a few years later, when he urged the Board to seek the re-introduction of Mr. Buxton's Bill.

The death of King William IV and the accession

of Queen Victoria brought the Deputies together to frame the necessary addresses. The Minutes record that Her Majesty consented to receive the address at the Levee, which was a distinct advance on the previous custom of presenting it through a Minister. At about the same period a Petition was addressed to the Archbishop of Dublin, praying for his support in the House of Lords, of legislation for the Emancipation of the Jews. The Petition stated the standing of the Board and its representative character, that the Jews alone in the United Kingdom were still subject to religious disabilities from which they were free, not only in some of the foreign countries, but also in the principal dependencies of the British Crown, and that, as loyal subjects, it was a severe hardship that they should be excluded by the form of Oath from stations of trust, of which their Sovereign or their country might deem them worthy.

In the autumn of the same year Mr. David Salomons was co-opted to act on a sub-committee of the Board formed to deal with Mr. Baines' Municipal Offices Declaration Bill, which proposed to alter the form of Declaration contained in 9 Geo. IV, Cap. 17, and required to be made by persons on their admission to municipal offices, but which actually proposed to limit its concessions to Quakers and Moravians. A Petition on the subject was addressed by the President to Lord John Russell, with which was enclosed a copy of a Civil Offices Declaration Bill of the previous year, which had passed the Commons and contained the wider dispensation which was needed.

1838] In January a Deputation from the Board waited on Lord Melbourne and the Marquis of

Lansdown to enlist their support in connection with the amendment desired to the Municipal Offices Declaration Bill, and found them disposed to assist them.

The Solicitor's account for work done in connection with the petition to Parliament for exemption from the Affinity Marriage Act and to the Marriage Registration Act was paid at £207 16s. 4d., and the proportions of the Synagogues were: the Portuguese Synagogue, seven twenty-fifths; Great, seven twenty-fifths; Hambro, four twenty-fifths; New, four twenty-fifths; Western, two twenty-fifths; and Maiden Lane, one twenty-fifth.

In the same month it was resolved by the majority of one vote that the Deputies do tender their resignations to their Congregations, in order that the latter do consider the mode of election best calculated to give effect to the wishes and promote the benefit of the Jewish Community. It was further resolved that the Deputies recommend to their Synagogues that at future elections all seat-holders be entitled to vote.

☞ The new Board appointed Sir Moses Montefiore as its President. There were four candidates for the post of Solicitor to the Board. Mr. Nethaneel Lindo secured the appointment. A set of by-laws were formulated which required, *inter alia*, a half-yearly report to be furnished to the Congregations.

This year Sunderland appointed a Deputy. Mr. Sampson Samuel resigned the Secretaryship of the Board, but subsequently offered to retain the office if it were converted into an honorary one. His offer was accepted.

In November the Great Synagogue sent on to the Board a long letter received from Mr. I. L.

Goldsmid, in which he very strongly deprecated the clause in the Board's Constitution which declared the Deputies to be the only official medium of communication with Government in matters concerning the political interests of the British Jews. He regarded the Board as too unwieldy from its numbers to deal with urgent and immediate matters, particularly as they had no authority to delegate their powers to a sub-committee. In great detail he set out his complaint that the Board worked too slowly and was often forced to ask for amending legislation to correct Acts which had become law, instead of pressing for amendments in Bills while they were still under discussion, and that the most useful results (such as the admission of the Jews to the Freedom of the City of London) had been obtained by private effort, in which he personally had been largely instrumental. As evidence of the failure of the Board to co-operate with private effort he instanced the failure to support him with pecuniary assistance in connection with the forwarding of the Bill for Jewish emancipation which had passed the House of Commons on three separate occasions. Whatever use the Board might be to the Jews of London, it was monstrous, he said, to suppose that the Deputies could, for instance, act for the Jews of Liverpool, and that an independent action on the part of the latter should be regarded as unofficial. He particularly resented the hampering of the private action of those who happened to be members of Congregations which had elected Deputies. Such persons must, by their adherence to the Congregation, be considered to have approved the Constitution which deprived them of the right of independent action.

Mr. Goldsmid and his son were invited to attend and discuss the matter with the Board, and a resolution was carried that no individuals who were members of a Synagogue or of the Board were precluded from exerting their influence with the Government for the promotion of their civil rights and privileges. This apparently was not considered by Mr. Goldsmid to be sufficient, and when elected a Deputy for the Great Synagogue in the following year he declined the appointment.

1839] In January the Maiden Lane Synagogue ceased to be represented, and in April Sunderland was obliged to discontinue its representation on account of the expense, but offered to co-operate with the Board in any other manner possible.

In July a letter was received from Mr. David Salomons adverting to the adverse decision of the Court of Exchequer (reversing the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench), which deprived him as a Jew from attaining the Aldermanic Chair. He was strongly in favour of an appeal to the House of Lords; as the question was one of principle, and touched nearly the larger question of the emancipation of the Jews, he suggested that the Board should take charge of the appeal. The Board, after consideration, resolved that it would be more expedient to obtain the required relief by direct legislation than by an appeal in the Courts of law.

During this year some difficulty was experienced in getting the provincial congregations to appreciate that no Marriage Secretary could enter on his duties except he be certified to the Registrar-General by the President of the Board, a difficulty which has not yet (in 1910) entirely disappeared.

At the end of the year there were only five congregations (all of them Metropolitan) represented at the Board.

1840] The loyal addresses of the Jews on the occasion of the marriage of Queen Victoria were followed by a protest on the part of the Board, as the acknowledged representative of the Jews, against public unauthorized acts on the part of Synagogues, the cause of the protest being a separate Address presented by "The Jews of the Maiden Lane Synagogue," which was regarded as manifesting to the world "a want of general co-operation and of unanimity." The sting of the independent action is later in the minutes disclosed by the fact that the offending document had been presented by Mr. I. L. Goldsmid, whose relations with the Board were already somewhat strained. In the presence, however, of more serious Communal danger, these minor differences were forgotten, and in April we find Mr. I. L. Goldsmid and other gentlemen (among them Monsieur Cremieux, Vice-President of the Consistoire Central des Israélites Français) attending a meeting of the Board summoned to consider the persecution to which the Jews of Damascus and Rhodes were being subjected. This occasion is interesting as being the first entry of the Board (as distinct from the original Committee of the Portuguese Congregation) into the arena of the affairs of Foreign Jewish Communities. The origin of the attack on the Jews was a revival of the hideous and unjustifiable Blood Accusation, a survival of the Middle Ages. The brutalities perpetrated on the innocent Jews accused of killing Christians for the purpose of using their blood for mingling with their Passover Cakes, raised a

storm of indignation through Jewry. The remarkable thing was that the two accusations, which were absolutely distinct, should have been contemporaneous. A mass of evidence reached the Board from which the facts were learnt. At Damascus a priest-physician, visiting all denominations in the city, suddenly disappeared with his servant, and he was stated to have been last seen in the Jewish quarter. A Jewish barber was accordingly seized and put to the torture. In the intervals between applications of the bastinado he was urged to confess his accomplices, and in his agony he mentioned the names of seven other Jews, hoping so to escape further brutalities. Even then he did not accuse them of the murder, only stating that they had offered him a bribe to kill the priest, and what had happened to him he knew not. The torture was at once applied to the said incriminated persons, but they staunchly maintained their innocence. They were, however, thrown into prison, beaten, and chained, and starved. Then various Jewish butchers and Rabbis were seized, and so beaten that their flesh hung from them in strips. Next, a number of children were imprisoned in the hopes that their sufferings might induce their elders to make some confessions. A Jew who dared to appear before the Governor to argue that the Jewish ritual abhorred the use of blood, and that the whole affair was a plot of the Christians to lead to a massacre of the Jews, was beaten to death by the Governor's orders, and six hundred men were sent to demolish the Jewish quarter. Under the pressure of torture, one of the accused stated that the accusation was true, but when he was required to find the remains of the deceased, no trace could be found, and he

was awarded one thousand lashes for his confession. For a whole month the Jews of Damascus and Beyrout had been afraid to show themselves, and were in hiding.

The case at Rhodes was that a Greek boy had disappeared, and the Jews were charged by the Christians with having killed him for his blood. Curiously enough, in this case it was certain of the European consuls who took the lead in the accusation against the Jews. Two Greek women came forward and formulated a charge against a Jew who was supposed to have been seen in company with the boy. He was cited before the Consuls, and proved an alibi. He was, however, thrown into prison and tortured, hot wires being run through his nose, and a heavy weight being laid on his chest. Other Jews were seized and put to the torture to make them confess, and for a time the inhabitants refused to let food pass into the Ghetto, and then only admitted salt fish and black bread, for which they charged an exorbitant price.

The Board took up the case of these persecuted Communities with the greatest ardour and energy. Advertisements of the facts were at once forwarded to some thirty odd newspapers, Lord Palmerston was waited upon by a Deputation, and his active co-operation was at once enlisted, dispatches being sent by him to the British Representatives at Constantinople and Alexandria instructing them to intervene.

Justice moves but slowly in the East, and in June the Board sought counsel with the other leaders of Jewry, and as a result Sir Moses Montefiore proceeded, accompanied by Monsieur Cremieux, to the seat of the outrage. A public Jewish sub-

scription was opened, the Lord Mayor called a public indignation meeting which took place at the Mansion House, and an energetic press campaign was kept actively alive. The few represented Synagogues raised out of their own funds over £300, and beyond this the Portuguese Congregation made a contribution of £500 towards expenses. The strongest possible denials of the Human Sacrifice Myth, signed by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. David Meldola (Haham), and the Beth Din, was translated into a number of languages and circulated widely both here and abroad. Sir Robert Peel championed the cause of the oppressed and tortured Eastern Jews in the House of Commons.

In July the Board learnt that the accused at Rhodes had been acquitted. Sir Moses was still on his voyage, and in his letters home particularly urged the necessity of keeping the Provinces fully aware of all that was being done. Before he had left, a "Committee of Correspondence" of the Board was appointed, with whom he kept in touch throughout his mission. At Alexandria he was at once introduced to the Pasha (Mahomed Ali), and mooted the question of a new trial of the nine condemned Damascus Jews who still remained in custody (four others had died under torture and six had escaped). Sir Moses urged that the venue should be changed to Alexandria, and he definitely refused to accept a release of the prisoners as an act of grace, on the ground that this would appear as though they had been pardoned for an offence which actually they had not committed. Mahomed Ali throughout his negotiations with the Mission took a most humane interest in the prisoners, and had, on Sir Moses' arrival, and, at his request, ordered that their hardships in prison

should be considerably alleviated. Throughout Sir Moses' correspondence there was unfortunately a clear recognition that French official influence was being, as it had been throughout, exercised adversely towards the prisoners, and was bitterly opposed to a new trial, and this was his real difficulty. Finally, on 23rd August, the desired order for discharge of those in prison, and for the return of the escaped prisoners to their homes, was promulgated, and the following is a literal translation of the Pasha's Firman :—

“It has been placed before our eyes an exposition from Sir Moses Montefiore and Monsieur Cremieux, which contained their demands and their hopes.

“They have been deputed to us by the population of Europe which confesses the Mosaic Religion—they requested us to order the liberty of their co-religionists who are arrested, and to assure tranquillity to those who have taken their flight in consequence of the examination relative to the affair of the disappearance of Father Thomas and his servant Ibrahim, in the month of Lit-hidge, in the year 1255.

“We consider it to be worthy on our part to listen to the voices and confirm the hopes of the Deputies of such a numerous population. Consequently we order that all those of the Jews that are imprisoned shall be set at liberty, and to those among them that have left their homes we will that the greatest security should be given to them to return—each of them can again take up his profession or business and return to his usual occupation.

“We order that you shall take such measures

as may prevent them from becoming the object of any bad treatment from any party whatever. You are to understand that they are to be in full and entire security against any event whatever—absolutely so as they were before that affair took place.

“This is our Will . . . the second of the month Redjet, 1256.”

The Firman was widely circulated both in the East and in Europe, and was hailed with the greatest satisfaction. The fund which the Board had initiated for the relief of the sufferers and for the expenses of those accompanying Sir Moses on his mission had been generously supported, the remittances from abroad bringing with them expressions of the greatest approbation of the Board's humane intervention. Among the subscriptions from abroad were £480 from the Jews of Hamburg, 5529 frs. from Amsterdam, £70 from Altona, £50 from the Barbados, £714 from Kingston, Jamaica, 100 guineas from Spanish Town, Jamaica, \$915 from Gibraltar, £170 from Philadelphia, and £115 from St. Thomas. Sir Moses was not content with the success his mission had gained, and proceeded next to Constantinople, where he procured from the Sultan a Firman, addressed to the Chief Judge at Constantinople, of which the following is an extract :—

“Let that be executed which is prescribed in this Firman.” (These words are in the Sultan's own writing.)

“An ancient prejudice prevailed against the Jews. The ignorant believed that the Jews were accustomed to sacrifice a human being,

to make use of his blood at their feast of Pass-over.

“In consequence of this opinion, the Jews of Damascus and Rhodes (who are the subjects of our empire) have been persecuted by other nations. The calumnies which have been uttered against the Jews and the vexations to which they have been subjected have at last reached our Imperial throne.

“But a short time has elapsed since some Jews dwelling in the Isle of Rhodes have been brought thence to Constantinople, where they have been tried and judged according to the new regulations, and their innocence of the accusations made against them fully proved. That, therefore, which justice and equity required has been done in their behalf.

“Besides which, the religious books of the Hebrews have been examined by learned men, well versed in their theological literature, the result of which examination is that it is found that the Jews are strongly prohibited not only from using human blood, but even that of animals. It therefore follows that the charges made against them and their religion are nothing but pure calumnies.

“For this reason, and for the love we bear to our subjects, we cannot permit the Jewish nation (whose innocence of the crime alleged against them is evident) to be vexed and tormented upon accusations which have not the least foundation of truth, but that, in conformity to the Hatti Scherif, which had been proclaimed at Gulhané, the Jewish nation shall possess the same advantages and enjoy the same privi-

leges as are granted to the numerous other nations who submit to our authority.

“The Jewish nation shall be protected and defended.

“To accomplish this object, we have given the most positive orders that the Jewish nation dwelling in all parts of our empire shall be perfectly protected as well as all other subjects of the Sublime Porte, and that no person shall molest them in any manner whatever (except for a just cause), neither in the free exercise of their religion, nor in that which concerns their safety and tranquillity. In consequence, the present Firman, which is ornamented at the head with our ‘Hoomaioon’ (sign manual), and emanates from our Imperial Chancellerie, has been delivered to the Israelitish nation.

“Thus you, the above-mentioned judge, when you know the contents of this Firman, will endeavour to act with great care in the manner therein prescribed. And in order that nothing may be done in opposition to this Firman at any time hereafter, you will register it in the archives of the tribunal; you will afterwards deliver it to the Israelitish nation; and you will take great care to execute our orders and this our sovereign will.

“Given at Constantinople, the 12th Ramarzan, 1256 (6th November, 1840).”

Before the end of the year there was further trouble at Rhodes, to which island, apparently, the Sultan’s Firman had not yet been sent. Two Jews were arrested on a frivolous charge and tortured to make them confess. At Sir Moses’ instance, the British Ambassador intervened, much to the sur-

prise of the Governor, who persisted that torture was the natural means of extracting the truth from a prisoner. However, on further representation the Jews were set free.

1841] On his way home to Europe Sir Moses stayed at Paris, and on behalf of the Board's mission presented Louis Philippe with a translation of the Sultan's Firman, in view of the activity on the part of the French representative in assisting in the persecution of the Jews.

A Jewish Declaration Bill was before the House of Commons this year, and although it was merely intended to remove the disabilities preventing Jews from holding municipal office, yet it was a step in the right direction, and the Board signed a Petition in support of it which was presented to both Houses, Lord John Russell presenting it in the House of Commons. The Bill passed the Commons by 108 to 31, and it is noteworthy that in speaking in favour of the measure, the then Colonial Secretary expressed himself in the House as favourable to the entire removal of all disabilities of the Jews.

The year's expenses (1840-41), exclusive of the expenses relating to the Damascus and Rhodes troubles, were £194 12s. 4d., which were divided among the five constituent Synagogues in proportion to the number of their Deputies. There were, previous to the new election of this year, twenty-four Deputies in all, the Portuguese Synagogue (then described as the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue) and the Great Synagogue each having seven representatives, the Hambro and New having each four, and the Western two.

At the new election of Deputies, Bath and New-

castle were represented for the first time. The second meeting of the session was memorable for the reading of an earnest letter, signed by the Chief Rabbi and Dr. Meldola, lamenting the threatened establishment of a dissenting Synagogue (with new forms of prayers already in the Press), which was intending "to depart from the Laws, Statutes, and Observances which our fathers bequeathed to us." The original "Dissenters" were formerly worshippers at the Bevis Marks Synagogue. The Board was strongly urged to take measures of defence and resistance, and a dread was expressed that once the Community was disunited, other subdivisions with their weakening influence would be developed. A motion was proposed by Mr. Louis Lucas deprecating the new movement. Mr. David Salomons, who had joined the Board, moved an amendment containing a far stronger protest, but the Board was satisfied and passed the original motion by 13 to 7.

In June the Board proceeded to elect both a Solicitor and a Secretary, and Mr. Sampson Samuel was elected to both offices at a salary of £50, Mr. N. Lindo being an unsuccessful competitor for the former office and retiring from the Board at the next meeting.

The letters received at this time from Manchester, Birmingham, Sunderland, show that the comparatively heavy expenses incurred by the Board prevented most of the provincial congregations from sending Deputies.

There was still ill-feeling against the Jews at Damascus, and Colonel Churchill, who was deputed by the British Government to reside in the City in a military capacity, wrote to the Board advocating that the Jews should once more resume their

position as a separate people. This early expression of Zionism (for he advocated Palestine as the locale of the nation) is the more interesting as it was accompanied by his suggestions as to the factors which were indispensable to that end, viz: (1) That the Jews themselves take up the matter *universally* and *unanimously*; (2) That the European Powers would aid them in their establishment; (3) The Jews must become subjects of Turkey, and the European Powers must take them under their protection. Colonel Churchill's letter also showed that the attacks on the Jews of Damascus had originated with the Christians.

The Tablet (the Roman Catholic organ) having renewed the accusation against the Jews that they had murdered Padre Tomaso at Damascus, Counsel's opinion was taken, and he advised that the paragraph was libellous. Happily, *The Tablet*, in a subsequent number, deprecated the accusation and withdrew it.

An interview with Lord Palmerston on the subject of the continued aggressions against the Jews in Damascus resulted in instructions being given to the British Consuls that any local complaints of a serious nature should be forwarded to the British Ambassador at Constantinople, who was to represent them to the Porte itself.

1842] The Board took steps to get Synagogues exempted from Poor and Church Rates. Curiously enough, the Great Synagogue, which was particularly heavily rated, asked that no such steps be taken on its behalf. The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, on the other hand, had never been rated at all. The Solicitor and Secretary prepared a most careful report on the history and law of the

rating of places of worship, in which he expressed his opinion that, legally, Jewish Synagogues were not—as the churches of other denominations were—exonerated from rates.

The trouble with the Reformed or West London Synagogue reached a climax in January, when Mr. Francis Henry Goldsmid applied to the President for his certification of the appointment of Mr. David Woolf Marks as its Marriage Secretary. The application was referred to the Chief Rabbi and the Beth Din, and as the Chief Rabbi refused to certify the congregation in question as a Synagogue, the President refused his certificate. He also took eminent counsel's opinion on the subject, which confirmed him that he had exercised a sound discretion, and that as he had acted on the advice of the Chief Rabbi and the Beth Din, the Courts would not compel him to grant a certificate. In his reply Mr. Goldsmid invited the President to rule that the new place of worship was "a Synagogue of persons *professing* the Jewish religion, although you may not consider ours to be the *right kind of Judaism*," but apparently he found himself unable to comply with this suggestion.

The Board considered a Bill of Sir John Easthope to abolish Church rates and to empower the members of the Established Church to levy a tax *on the Jews and sects for the maintenance of Churches!*

The Poor Laws being under revision, a Committee of the Board was appointed, and an interview sought with the Poor Law Commissioners. The Committee finally reported to the Board that the statistics they had collected showed that no practical evil arose from the present system of indoor relief, and that should any real grievance arise, it would be removed by obtaining a promise

from the Commissioners to direct the Guardians to make proper arrangements for the reception of Jewish paupers consistent with their religion. As to out-door relief, however, a grievance did exist, but as to its nature the Minutes are silent.

In April the Trustees of the Bedford Charity (with the notable exception of one Charles Hyne) were for excluding Jews from the benefits of the charity, although a decision of the Lord Chancellor in 1819 had declared them to be eligible for the same, and since then the Corporation and Test Act (1828) and the Municipal and Corporation Act had passed in favour of religious toleration. The Board successfully intervened, and prevented the exclusion of the Jews.

A curious Petition from Abraham Simmons, of Cutler Street, and Moses Levy, disclosed that the City had harried the Jewish costermongers out of their market in Cutler Street, and that the petitioners, out of pity and to relieve the consequent distress, had taken a lease of land in Cutler Street and Cutler's Mews on which they had erected buildings for £2300 for the gratuitous use of the evicted persons. They appealed to the Board for funds, on the ground that but for their action the poor traders would have removed to Duke's Place, and their presence in the immediate neighbourhood of the Synagogues would have been a source of annoyance. No action was taken.

An Income Tax Bill was under consideration of the House of Commons, and the Solicitor reporting that Jewish places of worship were excluded from the exemptions from property and income tax, an amendment was drafted and confided to the care of Mr. John McKenna, M.P. Sir Robert Peel gave the amendment the weight of his support,

and the amendment was duly incorporated in the measure.

A very rare document is set out in full in the minutes of July, 1842, being a letter from Dr. Lilienthal, Lecturer to the Jews of Riga, informing the President of gracious concessions which had been made to the Jews by the Czar. The concessions were to raise the Russian Jews from the lowest degradation to a condition of permanent comfort. In the letter the Jews were represented as being permeated with intolerance and in a state of ignorance. To cure this M. Uwaroff (Minister of Education) and Count Kisseliff (Minister of Crown Lands) had decided through Dr. Lilienthal to persuade the Jews to establish voluntarily their own schools, "and thus afford to their friends in the Government Council an opportunity to intercede in their behalf." A Ukase had, therefore, been issued, placing their schools under the Ministry of Public Education, and a Council of Rabbis was appointed to advise as to the management of the institutions, with due regard to the laws of the Jews. This was regarded by the writer as an opportunity of deserving the Imperial "fraternal grace" and the favour of the Ministers. The interest in the letter principally lies in the fact that at the Czar's wish Sir Moses was invited to St. Petersburg to attend a meeting of the Council in question.

Dr. Lilienthal's letter was accompanied by another from the Jews of Mitau in Russia, in which Sir Moses was begged to endure the fatigues of the Jews "in this decisive movement in Israel's life and history." The minutes unfortunately do not say how these invitations were dealt with.

The Ukase of the Czar was swiftly followed by another, compelling the Jews to remove from

the Russian frontiers to the interior. The latter Ukase threatened to drive half a million Jews from their homes. The President forthwith sought audience with the Russian Ambassador, and the latter undertook to urge the Minister to abrogate the order in question.

Bitter complaints reached the Board as to the condition and treatment of the Jews of Bagdad, but an appeal to the Foreign Office brought them relief.

Endeavours to restore a union between a dissentient body of worshippers at Liverpool who had broken away from the parent body and started a new Synagogue, took up a considerable amount of time and correspondence this year.

1843] The introduction of an Interment Bill, which threatened to interfere with Jewish Burial Grounds, led to the presentation of a memorial on the subject to the Home Secretary, and the Board was assured that the peculiar circumstances of the Jewish Ground should be borne in mind.

Bitter complaints were received as to the treatment of the Jews of Tetuan and Tunis. At Tetuan the grievance was their compulsory employment by the Governor on the Sabbath. At Tunis they had actual ill-treatment. The facts were laid by the Board before Sir John Reade, British Consul at that City, and by him representations were made to the Bey. The latter promised that he would never permit an injustice to be done to the Jews. In his communication to the Board of the result of his interview with the Bey, the Consul recounted how, after all other interventions had failed, his personal appeal had saved the life of a Jew in the service of the Chancellor to the French

Consulate condemned by a previous Bey to be burnt alive. He admitted that the Jews had lately suffered persecution at the hands of the lower classes of the Catholic population, and he had taken rigorous steps to stop this annoyance.

This year saw the first steps taken by the Board with regard to factory legislation, representations being made to Sir James Graham, who had introduced a Factory Bill, that Jews should be placed on an equality—in regard to the Educational clauses which it contained—with the Catholics. An amendment to that effect was prepared and entrusted to Mr. McKenna, M.P. The clauses which necessitated the amendment were subsequently expunged from the Bill.

1844] In February the Board received copies of a series of resolutions severely adverting on the Czar's Ukase (banishing the Jews to the interior), which had been adopted by a meeting of Christians held at the British Coffee House. An audience was sought by the Board with the Earl of Aberdeen, and he promised the friendly offices of Her Majesty's Government in alleviating the situation.

Persecutions abroad were not restricted to Russia, and the Board in the same month had before it details of a charge brought against the Jews of Marmora of murdering a Christian child for ritual purposes. They were tried on the charge and acquitted, a result due in no small degree to the efforts of the British Ambassador to the Porte. The Board authorized the expenditure of a sum up to £50 in obtaining for the accused an official copy of the Judgment and a copy for the Board.

At this period the only Congregations represented at the Board were the Spanish and Portuguese,

Great, Hambro, New, Western, and Liverpool. The Solicitor and Secretary's salary was raised from £50 to £75.

The vexed question of the validity of Jewish marriages which, though sanctioned by Jewish law, were within the degrees of affinity prohibited by 5 and 6 Will. IV, Cap. 54, engaged the attention of the Deputies, a special Committee being elected to obtain Counsel's opinion. A case was laid before Sir John Dodson (Advocate-General) and Dr. Jesse Addams, who advised that, although there was a provision in 6 and 7 Will. IV, Cap. 85, to the effect that Jews might continue to contract and solemnize marriages according to their own usages, yet the previous Statute, 5 and 6 Will. IV, Cap. 54, annulled and made void all marriages within the prohibited degrees, without any exception in favour of Jews, and that accordingly the marriages of Jews within the degrees of affinity forbidden by the English law—even if permitted by Jewish law—were void. Copies of the case and opinions were circulated among the Congregations, with advice that until a legal decision had been given upsetting such opinion, the officers of the Synagogues should withhold their sanction from such marriages.

A further serious marriage question resulted from the case of *The Queen v. Millis*, which, on appeal to the House of Lords, was confirmed, the Lords of Appeal being equally divided in their judgment. The effect of the case was to invalidate a number of Jewish marriages, and a special Act of Parliament was subsequently passed to validate them. The Lords of Appeal, in the course of the hearing, went deeply into the question of whether or not all Jewish marriages performed since 1753

were not void for not having been performed by a minister of the Established Church. Their considerations on this subject alone filled some twenty-four pages of Appendix to a detailed report on the case prepared for the Board by its Solicitor and Secretary. His opinion was that the Jewish marriages in question still held good, and such opinion proved to be correct.

The Czar of Russia having withdrawn the Ukase which had caused such dismay among the Jews of Russia, and being in England on a visit to the Queen, the Board presented him with an address of welcome and thanks.

Complaints received from Gibraltar as to the treatment there of Jewish refugees from Tangier led to an appeal being addressed by the Board to Lord Stanley, Secretary for the Colonies.

1845] The question of the removal of Jewish disabilities was again before the Board, and resolutions were passed that in view of the advancement of liberal feelings throughout the country, particularly on questions of religion, the present was a fitting period for taking measures for the removal of the disabilities, and that a public subscription should be opened to defray the necessary expenses. A Deputation, consisting of Sir Moses Montefiore, Baron Lionel de Rothschild, and Messrs. Israel Barned, H. de Castro, and David Salomons, waited on Sir Robert Peel. The latter informed the Deputation that there was about to be introduced a Bill which would accomplish part of their desire, as it would enable Jews to fill municipal offices, and that this would not preclude them later from obtaining the fuller realization of their wishes. The Lord Chancellor and the

Duke of Cambridge are particularly noticed in the Minutes for their generous support of the Bill here referred to, when passing the House of Lords. A petition from the Board in favour of the Bill was duly presented to the House of Commons by Sir Robert Peel. It passed into law as the Municipal Offices Act.

Most opportune was the publication of an official Report of the Commissioners of Criminal Law, which dealt incidentally with the various Statutes imposing penalties or disabilities in regard to religious opinions, and advocated the repeal of certain of these. Among their recommendations (which the Solicitor of the Board brought to the Board's notice in his report on the subject) were the repeal of :—

(1) The Clauses in the Uniformity Acts imposing penalties for repairing to other places of worship than churches,

(2) The Clauses in certain Statutes named, inflicting penalties on Jews for professing, exercising, or promoting any religion other than that of the Established Church,

(3) The laws of recusancy,

And they further recommended that the punishment for omitting when called upon to take the Oath of Allegiance and Abjuration should be made less severe; that the religious worship of the Jews be protected in like manner as that of the Roman Catholics and Dissenters; and that forms of Oaths and Declarations for holding offices and places of public trust should be so framed as to be available for persons of different faiths.

The Commissioners in the course of their report referred to their recommendations as being

framed so as to provide that the Jews should be secured in the possession of their property, protected in the exercise of their religion, and admissible to various offices and positions of trust.

In this year the Board welcomed the appointment of Rev. Dr. Nathan Marcus Adler as Chief Rabbi, he having succeeded to that office on the death of Dr. S. Hirschel, a firm friend of the Board.

Unfortunately, news reached the Board in October that the Ukase removing all Jews to the interior of Russia was to be revived the following April. The President and Baron Lionel de Rothschild brought the fact to the notice of the Foreign Office.

1846] A decisive step towards the formation of a Law and Parliamentary Committee was taken in the election of a Committee, in February of this year, "to make observations on such matters as might be introduced into Parliament during the session affecting the Jews, and to report to the Board thereon."

The position in Russia being precarious, the President decided, on the invitation of the Board, to proceed on a Mission to that country, and left for that purpose in February. He was favourably received by the Czar, who impressed him with his own desire to promote the welfare of his Jewish subjects.

A Bill entitled "a Bill to relieve Her Majesty's subjects from certain penalties and disabilities in regard to religious opinions" was introduced this year, based on the recommendations of the Commission on Criminal Law referred to earlier. It purported, *inter alia*, to remove all doubts respecting the rights of the Jews to acquire and to hold property necessary for their worship, education,

and charitable purposes, and for that purpose to put them in these respects on exact equality with the Dissenters, and to provide for the protection of Jewish ministers and places of worship from molestation. This Bill duly passed into law, and was regarded at the time as a foretaste of a complete removal of Jewish disabilities.

1847] The Board presented to Her Majesty's Government a complaint that a Jewish girl of fourteen years of age, attending a school at Hobart Town (Van Diemen's Land), established to educate the children of prisoners, had been forcibly converted by the Episcopalian Chaplain of such school. There was also forwarded an appeal from the same town to the Colonial Office to allow Jewish prisoners exemption from labour on the principal Jewish Holy Days. The appeal was successful.

A charge of ritual murder was preferred against the Jews of Deir el Kamar, near Beyrut, and a false version of the matter having been published in *The Times*, the Board corrected it. The charge failed, largely owing to the intervention of the British Consul, on direct instructions received from our Government.

At Jerusalem there was a like accusation, and the Board addressed the British Consul on the subject. A further charge of ritual murder was made at Damascus by a Monsieur Baudin, who held an appointment in the French Consulate. A Christian boy who was a servant of his disappeared. M. Baudin addressed a petition to the Governor asking for a diligent search to be made, and reminded him that "the wicked Jews are in the habit of decoying children in their power

during the period of their festivals, and that therefore it was likely that he is hidden in the Jewish quarter."

The President of the Board at once crossed to France, and had an audience both with the Emperor and Monsieur Guizot. The latter in his reply stated that the Emperor's Government deemed the accusation false and calumnious, and that it had severely censured any of its agents who were instrumental in publishing it. An explanation had been demanded from the French Consul at Damascus, and he had been directed to administer the severest reprimand to the agent who had interested himself in such a false statement of facts.

At the Triennial election held this year, both Manchester (Old) and Manchester (New) Synagogues elected Deputies.

The year was notable for the candidature of Baron Lionel de Rothschild as a Member of Parliament for the City of London. The position was one of such vast political significance for Jews that the Board requested all the Deputies to exercise their influence in aid of the election, and passed a vote of congratulation on learning of the Baron's success.

The Board addressed Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the proposal to make Government grants for education, and the desire of the Jews to participate. It was urged as a special ground that owing to the scarcity of Jewish qualified masters, the salaries which had to be paid to them were very large, and that the burden was a difficult one for the community to bear.

In October, in view of the lively and benign influence exerted by Pope Pius IX to secure the

welfare of Jews of Rome, an effort, as the Board recorded, "made in a sphere where intolerance had hitherto been the rule of the day," an address of thanks was prepared and forwarded to him, with the approval of Lord Palmerston. The address was most favourably received, and within a very short time further and highly important concessions were made, by the Pope's orders, in favour of the Jews.

In December occurs the first entry in the Minutes of the Board's action to combat the *Stille Chuppa*, or irregular Jewish marriage. On receiving information of such a marriage, notice was circulated among the Congregations, warning all of the dangers of the proceedings.

A request from the Jews of Sydney, New South Wales, that they should be permitted to participate in the grants made from the Public Revenue in aid of religious instruction, given at present to the Christian denominations only, was backed up by an appeal from the Board to the Colonial Secretary, but the latter held that there appeared to be no rule enabling the grant to be made, that an amending Act would be necessary for the purpose, and that he had so notified the Governor.

The year ended with further steps taken to support legislation for the removal of the remaining Jewish disabilities. An interesting letter from Baron de Goldsmid to Baron de Rothschild gives the history of the efforts, showing how a Bill for that purpose had passed a second reading in the House of Commons in 1833 by 189 to 52, in 1834 by 123 to 32, and in 1847 by 253 to 186, and giving his opinion that an effective system of petitions from non-Jews throughout the country was essential, if only to combat the contra-petitions which

had been arranged for. A Committee of the Board was accordingly appointed to forward such object. A Bill was introduced by Lord John Russell "for the relief of Her Majesty's subjects professing the Jewish religion," and Jewish petitions to both Houses in favour were prepared, containing the following prayer :—

"The British-born Jews humbly submit that they are justly entitled to the same civil rights as are enjoyed by all other classes of Her Majesty's subjects."

These were signed by the members of the Board, and by thirty-three Jewish Congregations in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and Jersey. The whole of the organization and arrangements were the work of the Board.

In view of this work, a substantial bonus and a vote of thanks were accorded to the Solicitor and Secretary. The House of Lords rejected the Bill.

1848] In April the Editor of the *Jewish Chronicle* asked to be allowed to attend a meeting to be held that month to report the proceedings, but his request was (*nem. con.*) refused.

This application was perhaps connected with a petition from the Manchester New Synagogue, which was read at the same meeting, and which was to the effect that there was among the Jewish population a larger amount of ignorance, want of employment, poverty, and misery than among other denominations. That the Board was the only Body which could combat such evils, and that the end could not be obtained "so long as reporters of the Jewish Press were excluded."

The petition further asked that statistics from all the Congregations as to numbers, state of education, schools, occupations, Institutions, forms of Congregational Government, mendicants, relief, crime, etc., should be collected by the Board. These various suggestions were negatived by the meeting.

The Jews of Gibraltar complained to the Board that they had been deprived by the Governor of their burial-ground, which had been in use for upwards of a century, and had been offered another which was open to every possible objection. On the Board's representations another site was submitted, which was entirely satisfactory.

Statistics based on the figures of 1846 and presented to the Board by a Deputy, Mr. J. A. Franklin, showed a Jewish population in Middlesex that year of 22,669 souls.

1849] The Secretary commenced, this year, the collection of Communal statistics of Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Seatholders. Various Bills in Parliament relating to marriages were ordered to be closely watched. There was, in particular, a Scotch Marriage Registration Bill, which omitted, both in the case of Jews and Quakers, the provisions for the appointment of Marriage Secretaries which formed part of the English corresponding Act. The Lord-Advocate was interviewed, and he was not favourable to the English arrangements as to Marriage Secretaries being incorporated into the Scotch Bill.

This year was passed a resolution making it essential for a Congregation applying to have a First Marriage Secretary certified by the Board, to accompany its application by a certificate from

the ecclesiastical authorities that it was a properly constituted Jewish Synagogue.

1850] An interesting clause introduced into the Constitution as revised this year, was that which required the Board, except in case of emergency, to report its intended action on any legislative or municipal matter or other matters of importance, to the constituent Congregations, fourteen days before action was taken.

Attention was given to a complaint from the Registrar-General as to a Jewish marriage performed without notice to the Superintendent Registrar. The ceremony took place at Cheetham, Manchester. In the correspondence which followed, the Registrar-General seemed to suggest that the Board should punish the delinquents, so as to prevent a repetition of the objectionable proceedings. The Board could not find that there was any power to do so, but circulated among the Congregations a suggestion that the marriage fees should be kept as low as possible, so that legal marriages might be within the means of the poorer classes.

The Board was disturbed by the Report of the Board of Health on Burials in the Metropolis, which recommended extra-mural burials, with a "Commission" in complete control both of the General Cemeteries and of the special ground to be allotted to Jews. It was considered that the cost of Jewish burials would be thereby considerably increased, although, on the other hand, those of Christians (exorbitantly high at that period, an adult "gentleman's" funeral costing £100, and a "first-class tradesman's" £50) would be reduced by about two-thirds.

A Deputation was sent to Sir George Grey, and

the arguments and grievances of the Jews were stated and noted. A full statement was also submitted to the Home Secretary of the Jewish burial requirements, customs, and salutary provisions, showing that the abuses which were otherwise general did not attach to Jewish interments. The Commissioner's report was followed by an Interments Bill, which was referred to a Committee of the Board, who framed an amendment. The Bill would have thrown the whole management of Jewish funerals into the hands of non-Jewish officials. For the purposes of the amendment a complete record of the metropolitan Jewish burial-grounds was compiled, also a plan of the same, and a Deputation waited on the Board of Health, and every possible step was taken to ensure that the Jewish grounds should not be disturbed or taken out of Jewish control. Assurances were given by the Board of Health that everything possible would be done to avoid giving offence to Jewish susceptibilities. The Bill was laid before Counsel, and he suggested the necessity for further amendments, which were prepared and handed to Sir George Grey. As a result the Bill was amended on the third reading, and as so amended became law. Experience has shown that the safeguards obtained by the Board were ample for the purposes of the Community.

At the end of the year the Board was asked to sanction the marriage of a Jewish gentleman with his niece, the parties being within the affinities permitted by Jewish law. The ecclesiastical authorities required the Board's sanction before they would authorize the marriage. Dr. Lushington and Dr. Addams and other learned counsel had previously given opinion that the marriage would

be legal. No less than twenty-eight folio pages of the Board's minute-book are taken up with the deliberations, reports, cases, and opinions cited in connection with the Jews and the marriage law, and finally, after consideration, the Board decided that it saw no reason for departing from its resolution passed in 1844, that until a judicial decision or legislative enactment should declare the true state of the law as to such marriages among Jews, no sanction to their performance should be given.

1851] In March of this year a letter was received from the Registrar-General to the effect that he had taken the opinion of the Queen's Advocate, the Solicitor-General, and the Attorney-General, and that they had advised that a marriage between uncle and niece of the Jewish faith was invalid.

In the same month the Board was asked to assist the Census Office in getting accurate census returns from the Jews as to attendances at their places of worship, and circulated notices accordingly.

Some fears were expressed by the Jewish Friendly Societies that the Act (13 and 14 Vic. Cap. 115) passed to consolidate the Friendly Societies Acts would be prejudicial to such societies, so a round-table conference was called by the Board, and the Solicitor explained the Act to such effect that the Presidents of the Societies expressed themselves as having no further objection to it.

A Bill "for altering the mode of administering the Oath of Abjuration to Jews," introduced by Lord John Russell, duly passed the House of Commons, but was rejected by the Lords on the second reading. Mr. Alderman Salomons in the

interim was elected to Parliament for Greenwich, and the position became an interesting one.

A sub-committee on Education was appointed to report on a memorial of the Manchester Jews' School. The Manchester Deputy had applied to the Privy Council for a grant for the Manchester school from the education fund administered by such council, and the reply received was that under the Minutes of Council, no grants in aid of Jewish schools could be made. It was ascertained, however, that grants for buildings, augmentation of salaries, pensions, furniture, books, training of teachers, etc., had been made to the schools of Dissenting and Roman Catholic Bodies, as well as to those of the Church of England, and it appeared therefore that the Jews had been placed, by the Council's Minutes, in a special category which was unjustifiable, particularly as they contributed to the fund in question. Moreover, in Manchester, there was a proposal to establish Free Secular Schools to be supported by a special local rate, to which Jews must contribute, but the scheme in question would exclude Jewish schools, for the admission test was, whether or not they were recognized by the Privy Council. Inspectors' reports pronounced the teaching in the Manchester Jews' School as particularly efficient and thorough.

1852] Early in this year a memorial was prepared by the Board's Committee, and despatched to the Council on Education, dealing with the right of Jewish schools to Education grants. As a crown to the Board's long and delicate negotiations, the Council of Education informed the Board that they were ready to receive applications for any grants (other than for buildings) from Jewish

schools. The Board then prepared a Model Trust Deed for the use of Jewish schools claiming a grant.

The Model Deed, as drafted, contained a provision that the religious teaching given in a Jewish school should be under the control of the Jewish ecclesiastical authorities certified as such by the Board. This was objected to by the Free School and the Manchester School, as likely to affect their uncontrolled management. On the other hand, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, in the interests of their schools, begged the Board to retain the clause. To avoid friction, however, the Board consented to considerably vary it, making the religious instruction subject to the superintendence either of the Chief Rabbi or of a minister or other person appointed by the School committee and under their superintendence.

Somewhat out of the line of its usual work was a collection made by the Board towards the rebuilding of the Corfu Synagogue, and another for the Smyrna Synagogue.

This year saw the issue of the first list of Marriage Secretaries, which was printed in the half-yearly report of the Board prepared in September.

The Board watched carefully the progress through Parliament of an Act (15 and 16 Vic. Cap. 85) which repealed the Metropolitan Interments Act of 1850, and contained special provisions in favour of the Jews.

Another Act, and one of far wider importance, was also closely watched, namely, 15 and 16 Vic. Cap. 43, which relieved from heavy penalties (except a pecuniary fine) persons voting in Parlia-

ment without previously taking the Oath of Abjuration. Mr. Alderman Salomons was largely instrumental in obtaining the passing of this Act, and his efforts and pertinacity in insisting on taking his seat in the House, in spite of the penalties, were recognized in a special vote of thanks and appreciation from the Board.

It was gratifying to note that the Registrar-General consulted the Board as to whether an amendment to the Act relating to the exemption of places of worship from rates would require any special provisions to be inserted in the interests of the Jews. As the question necessitated a detailed study of the statutes (culminating with 15 and 16 Vic. Cap. 36, which placed Jewish Synagogues on an exact equality in this respect with Dissenters' places of worship), it was the occasion of a carefully prepared Report presented by the Solicitor and Secretary.

1853] The Model Deed prepared in 1852 was still the subject of discussion between the Board and the Council of Education, several institutions and persons having brought pressure to bear on the Council against the provisions as to Religious instruction, and the Council itself was dissatisfied that entry to the Jewish schools should be prohibited to non-Jewish children, and that no provision should be inserted allowing parents to withdraw their children from the religious instruction. After a long correspondence it was finally resolved that the Model Deed should throw open the schools which adopted it, to persons of all denominations, but that the religious instruction should be Jewish only, leave being given to non-Jewish parents to withdraw their children from religious instruction.

It appears from the correspondence that the Manchester school had always been open to all denominations, and in so informing the Council their Secretary expressed his Committee's approval of the Council's objection to the original draft deed. As a *quid pro quo* the restriction against the applications of Jewish schools for grants for building purposes was removed.

This year a further petition was presented to the House of Lords in favour of a Jewish Disabilities Removal Bill, pointing out that no valid reason existed for placing Her Majesty's Jewish subjects under disabilities which did not exist in our own Colonies and in many foreign countries.

At a meeting in August, held at the Great Synagogue, strangers were spied, and on being requested to withdraw they refused. "Civil force" was threatened, but as it was ascertained that orders had been given that the police were not to enter, the Chairman left the Chair and the meeting was dispersed. The "strangers" were three gentlemen elected as Deputies, in respect of whose elections protests had been lodged. At the following meeting they respectfully asked to be admitted, and the Jewish Press, for this occasion only, were also allowed to attend. The protest lodged as to the Portsea election, among other objections, stated that the Deputy elected was a member of a Congregation of Jews "who differed in opinion from the ecclesiastical authorities in relation to certain religious rules and customs." The same objection seems to have been raised against the Deputies for the Chatham, Exeter, and Norwich Synagogues. In some of the cases other irregularities were alleged, such as the absence of a ballot, voting by non-members, etc. By a majority of one it was decided

to postpone the deliberations on the disputed returns, and that a Committee of five Deputies be appointed to confer with five members of the Reformed or West London Synagogue, "with a view to effect a reconciliation between such Congregation and the ecclesiastical authorities." The Hambro Congregation petitioned against the admission of the three Deputies in question. The attempted reconciliation was a complete fiasco, and the Committee of the West London Synagogue was never appointed, the Synagogue in question deprecating the appointment of the Board's Committee which it refused to meet. A subsequent resolution to accept the doubtful elections was only lost by the President's casting vote.

A Committee of the Board was appointed to deal with Lord Lyndhurst's Bill "to amend the Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Abjuration," which prescribed the use of the words "Upon the faith of a Christian." The Lords threw out the Bill.

Counsel's opinion was taken as to whether the Board should endeavour to get Jewish charities exempted from the Charitable Trusts Bill. The opinion was to the effect that although previous to 9 and 10 Vic. Cap. 89, "Foundations for the study of the Torah and Synagogues" were illegal and void as being contrary to Christian precepts, such statute had legalized them and placed them on all fours with Christian foundations. Counsel was even of opinion that funds or donations in commemoration of the souls of deceased persons, which normally would be held to be superstitious, and therefore illegal, might be otherwise held if proved to be sanctioned by the religious practice of the Jews. Anyhow, he advised, any doubt would

be a minor risk to run compared to the other benefits which would accrue from the Measure.

The Board at this time consisted of 58 Deputies, of whom 26 represented 6 London Synagogues, and 32 represented 28 provincial Synagogues.

1854] The year commenced with the collection of a substantial fund for the Jews of Palestine, whose deplorable condition led to a Memorial being sent to the Foreign Office, praying that its good offices should be exerted to place the Jewish subjects of Turkey on an equality with their Christian fellow-countrymen. The reply promised the favourable attention of the Government. The Consistoire of Paris at the same time, acting in conjunction with the Board, made a similar application to the French Government.

A further Bill to remove Jewish disabilities was before the House of Commons.

A Bill for the repeal of 15 and 16 Vic. Cap. 36 for the Registration of Synagogues failed to become law.

A Committee was appointed to endeavour to procure the readmission of the Jews to Spain, they having been expelled by a law passed in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella. Since then no statute had recognized any but the Catholic religion. There were signs shown in the non-molestation of several Jewish merchants in Spain that the old restrictions were weakening, but the law of Proscription still remained legally in force. The Consistoire of Paris were asked to join with the Board in appealing to Spain, but they were nervous of troubling their Government on behalf of the Jews at that time. At this juncture the Cortes passed a law that no foreigner or Spaniard

should be persecuted for his opinions, so long as he did not manifest them by public acts contrary to religion.

Counsel's opinion was taken on a Bill (later it passed into law as 17 and 18 Vic. Cap. 80) transferring Matrimonial Causes to the Court of Chancery, and establishing a Court of Divorce, which provided that it would not have any effect on Jewish divorces, and that "so far as they may be now valid they will remain so."

The year closed with the appointment of a "Law and Parliamentary Committee to observe and report on Legislative measures affecting the Jewish Community," a Committee which has ever since been re-elected at the commencement of each session, and has occupied the premier position among the Board's Committees not only in point of age, but from the importance of its work and the extent of its labours. The first members of the Committee were: Sir Moses Montefiore, Baron Lionel de Rothschild, M.P., Mr. Alderman Salomons, and Messrs. Joshua Alexander,* Louis Cohen, Henry Harris, B. S. Phillips, and M. H. Picciotto.

1855] Early this year the Registrar-General sought the advice of the Board as to the validity of Jewish marriages within the degrees of affinity forbidden by Lord Lyndhurst's Act, and whether (if such marriages were found to be void) the Jews would consider that they had a grievance which they would like removed by a clause in a Bill then before Parliament.

The Board's answer was to the effect that there was some doubt whether Jewish marriages within the degrees allowed by their religion but pro-

* Father of the present President of the Board.

hibited by English law, were valid, but that the doubt was sufficient to prevent such marriages being solemnized in England, and that the prohibition was no doubt regarded by many as a grievance which they would like to see removed. Accordingly, Counsel was instructed to frame an amending clause allowing Jews to continue to contract and solemnize marriages according to Jewish laws and customs.

A petition was addressed to the Colonial Office, putting forward the prayer of the Jews of Van Diemen's Land for a grant from the sum of £15,000 annually allocated for the expenses of public worship. In reply, the Colonial Office stated that the Governor had been informed that he could obtain power to make the grant, and it was gratifying to note that before the year was ended such power was substantially exercised.

Two Education Bills occupied the attention of the Board, one providing for religious instruction in schools under the Education Committee, but allowing the withdrawal of Jewish children from such instruction, the other providing that no child should be refused admission to any such school on account of its religion, and allowing the religious instruction in any particular school to be determined by the religion of the majority of residents in the neighbourhood.

A Bill to prevent Sunday trading also came before the Law and Parliamentary Committee. A Mr. Fox, M.P., gave notice of an amendment to exclude the Jews from its operation. A Deputation on the subject of the Bill waited on Lord Robert Grosvenor, who had introduced the measure (which in form must have been practically similar to the periodical Bills of Lord Avebury in modern

times). He willingly agreed to introduce a clause in protection of the Jews.

A Dissenters' Marriage Bill was watched and was found to contain a clause (introduced at a late stage) enabling twenty householders to certify the appointment of a Marriage Secretary. Such a clause—which was obviously inserted at the instance of the West London Synagogue—would have reduced the Board's effective supervision of Marriage Secretaries and its statutory powers to *nil*, and it was strongly opposed by the Board, and on its representations the Registrar-General proposed that it should be amended so as to apply only to the West London Synagogue. Both the Chief Rabbi and the Board notified their approval of the clause as amended, and petitioned the House of Lords against the reintroduction of the original general clause.

A petition from the Board to the Colonial Office, on the refusal of the Governor of Gibraltar to allow the Jews to erect Tabernacles, resulted in an order being directed to the Governor not to interfere with the religious observances of the local Jews unless the security of the Town * otherwise necessitated.

Alderman Salomons crowned his struggles for the municipal rights of the Jews by attaining to the Lord Mayoralty of the City of London, and received a special Vote of Congratulation from the Board, of which he was a member.

The Registrar-General applied to the Board to learn whether the Jewish Synagogues would be willing to hand over to him their Birth, Death, and Marriage Registers for safe custody. The reply was not favourable, the Synagogues (with

* The anticipated danger was that of fire.

the exception of Maiden Lane, which stated that their earlier certificates had been distributed, in many cases the originals being given to the parties concerned) replying to the Board's inquiries that they preferred to retain their own records.

In December it was resolved, *nem. con.*, that the appointment of Solicitor and Secretary to the Board should be held by the same person.

1856] The Dissenters' Marriage Bill was again introduced into Parliament this year with the objectionable, instead of the revised and approved clause printed in it, and it was resolved to use every effort to get the clause amended. As a result, the measure under the title of "An Act to amend the provisions of the Marriage and Registration Act" passed, containing the clause in its revised form.

The heavy restrictions under which the Jews of Servia laboured were the subject of an appeal to the Foreign Office, and met with a reply that official representations would be made to the Sublime Porte and to the Servian Government.

On the application of the Melbourne Synagogue a Committee was appointed to report on the question of Colonial representation on the Board. The report was to the effect that the Constitution did not provide for the representation in question, but that the Board had never failed to give its best attention to all matters affecting the Colonies.

An appeal made to the Home Secretary to rescind the order of the Governors of prisons, made on instructions from the Home Office, compelling Jews to work on their Sabbaths and Festivals,

was completely successful, the desired order being circulated at once among the Governors.

1857] The Divorce Bill of this year contained the Lord Chancellor's amending clause that the jurisdiction of the Divorce Court, which was to be shortly constituted, should not have jurisdiction over Jewish marriages. The Board decided that it was a useful provision, as it would thereby recognize the divorce jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical authorities whose procedure was most inexpensive. The clause in question was however struck out in the House of Lords, and the Bill passed the Lords without it. This caused great consternation to the Chief Rabbi, who addressed the Board at some length on the anomaly of admitting Jewish marriage usages and rejecting their usages of Divorce. The Board petitioned the House of Commons to reinstate the rejected clause.

During the past three years, on several occasions the absence of Sir Moses Montefiore had necessitated the appointment of a temporary president, and Baron Lionel de Rothschild and Mr. Isaac Foligno successively held that office. Mr. Foligno died during his tenure of office.

Application was made to the Government in the form of a letter to Viscount Palmerston, again begging for legislation for the abolition of Jewish disabilities as constituted by the form of the Oath of Abjuration. His Lordship also received a Deputation, and promised to take charge of the Board's Petition. A paragraph in the second half-annual Report of the year testifies to the value of the honorary services of Mr. Lewis Emanuel,* who assisted the Solicitor and Secretary in securing

* Subsequently Solicitor and Secretary to the Board.

the co-operation of supporters of the removal of the disabilities, and in conducting the necessary correspondence.

This year saw the first appointment of a Vice-President and Auditors, Mr. Joseph Mayer Montefiore being the first Vice-President and Messrs. Haim Guedalla and Ephraim Moseley accepting the office of Auditors.

1858] The deplorable condition of the Jews of Teheran (Persia) led to a memorial on the subject being dispatched to the Foreign Office, and as a result, instructions to intervene on behalf of the oppressed Jews were dispatched to the British Minister in Persia.

At the July meeting the President was able at last to report that the long hoped-for measure of relief from disabilities in the form of the Oath Bill and Jewish Relief Bill had passed into law. The news was the occasion of a scene of the greatest enthusiasm, and in the resolutions which followed, grateful acknowledgments were given to the electors of the City of London, whose insistence on the election of Baron Rothschild to Parliament had forced upon the notice of the legislature the grave injustice of excluding Jews from Parliament, and to Baron Rothschild himself for his untiring devotion to the removal of Jewish disabilities. An address of congratulation, engrossed on vellum, was dispatched to him in honour of the occasion.

By the two Acts in question the old obnoxious form of Oaths of Allegiance, Supremacy, and Abjuration were abolished in favour of a single unobjectionable form of Oath, with a provision that in the case of Jews the words "Upon the true faith of a Christian" were to be omitted,

and power was given to the Houses of Parliament to similarly modify the Oath in the case of a Jew otherwise entitled to sit and vote in either House. Interesting to receive in connection with these measures was an address of congratulation to the Board from the Jews of Baltimore.

An appeal was received, in August, from Italy, asking for intervention on behalf of a Jew of Bologna, named Mortara, whose child, six years old, had been torn from him on the pretext that two years previously it had been baptized by a Christian maid-servant, herself fourteen years of age only. A memorial was addressed to the Pope, appeals for co-operation were addressed to the Jews of France, Germany, and the United States, and the good offices of Her Majesty's Government were enlisted.

1859] The year commenced with an interesting letter from the Chief Rabbi as to the existence of a tribe of some three thousand families of Chinese Jews in the interior, with a Synagogue and Scrolls of the Law. Missionaries had already tried to convert them by representing the Christian religion as a "reformed Judaism," but Messrs. Sassoon had intervened and stopped the deception. Their last Rabbi had died fifty years previously, and the present generation had lost all knowledge of Hebrew, and had no one who could perform the Jewish Rites. The Board was asked to do what it could to rescue the tribe from their religious ignorance, but was unable to undertake the task.

This year saw the commencement of the work which during the next fifty years formed an important part of the Board's duties. Information reached the Board that the Oxford Local Examinations would extend over the Jewish Sabbath,

which would mean that Jewish candidates would be greatly prejudiced, if not entirely prevented from competing. Communications were at once opened up with the Examining Body. The reply was entirely satisfactory, and it is important to note that this willingness to avoid placing the Jews under a religious disability was successfully used as a lever at later dates for obtaining concessions from many other Examining Bodies.

The name of Mr. W. E. Gladstone appears for the first time in the Minute Book of this year, application having been made to him at Corfu to intervene on behalf of the Jews of the Ionian Islands who were debarred from entering the learned professions, and were under disabilities.

The friendly intervention of Her Majesty's Government was at the same time sought on behalf of the Jews of Morocco, who were reported by the Consul at Rabat to be in a deplorable condition. The Foreign Office promised that the *Chargé d'Affaires* in Morocco should do all he could in their interests.

A Deputation from the Board waited on the Home Secretary with regard to a Bill which threatened to abolish the then existing exemption from rates of hospitals, charities, and schools.

Sir Moses Montefiore started on a mission to Rome in March on the Mortara case, taking with him the Board's memorial, which respectfully begged the Pope to direct the restoration of the child to its parents, and to forbid the recurrence of such occurrences. He was furnished with useful introductions by Her Majesty's Government. Mr. Odo Russell, Her Majesty's Attaché at Florence, but resident in Rome, used every possible endeavour to obtain for Sir Moses an interview with the Pope,

but his and all other efforts were in vain. The reply was that "the incident was closed." The most that could be obtained was permission to present the memorial through Cardinal Antonelli, and this was done, Mr. Russell accompanying Sir Moses. The Cardinal stated that the boy having been baptized, it would be contrary to the laws of the Holy See to allow him to return to his parents until he was seventeen or eighteen years of age, and had been fully instructed in the tenets of the Roman Catholic religion. An application made by the French Ambassador, Count de Grammont, was no more successful. The Board was not content to be silent under this rebuff, and in view of the appointment of a European Congress to adjudicate on the affairs of Italy, resolved that a memorial should be prepared for presentation to such Congress, urging their consideration of the Mortara case and the prevention of similar outrages, and asking that guarantees should be given for the freedom of the Jews of Italy from religious disabilities. At the same time a fund was opened on behalf of the father who had been put to ruinous expense in his efforts to reclaim his child.

An outbreak of blood accusations against the Jews of Galatz necessitated an appeal to the Foreign Office, but even more serious in its extent was a panic-stricken exodus of Jews from Tangier and Gibraltar on the outbreak of hostilities between Spain and Morocco, and the swooping down of the wild Kabyle Tribes on the former town. There were at Gibraltar alone some three thousand refugees, supported temporarily by local funds subscribed to by Jews and Christians alike. The Board opened a relief fund, which soon reached the large figure of £12,000.

1860] At this date fifteen Congregations only were represented at the Board, namely, six Metropolitan and nine Provincial.

•In view of the burden of work falling on the shoulders of Mr. Sampson Samuel, the Solicitor and Secretary, Mr. Lewis Emanuel was authorized to assist him, and to attend meetings of the Board when Mr. Samuel was unable to be present.

The Sunday Trading Bill, introduced first in 1855, was again introduced, but was withdrawn.

There was an echo of the Padre Tomaso case (Damascus) in a representation made to Her Majesty's Government that a tablet erected in a Capuchin chapel at Damascus referring to the death as a murder at the hands of the Jews should be removed. As a matter of fact, a little later an accidental fire removed both tablet and chapel. The Jews of the City, however, were by no means yet out of danger at the hands of their Christian fellow-citizens, and a pitiful tale of wrong, suborned evidence and oppression, reached the Board, and, through its agency, the Foreign Office. Lord John Russell sent instructions to the British Ambassador at Constantinople to take immediate steps for the protection of the Jews. This he did with such energy that many of the oppressors were punished, and the accused Jew was set free.

The Jews of Hamadan (Persia) were found to be in dreadful plight, their quarter having been sacked by the Gentiles. The Shah, when appealed to, ordered them to be punished severely (apparently for allowing their quarter to be sacked), and the Governor was not loth to carry into effect the royal orders. Her Majesty's Minister in Persia was instructed to make the necessary representations to the Persian Government.

In October the Board was officially notified of the founding of the Alliance Israélite of Paris, and a little later interviewed a Deputation from that Body on the subject of the further action in the Mortara case.

The Board received from^r the Foreign Office a copy of a letter from Mahomed Emin Ali, addressed to the Governor of Smyrna, informing him that the Jews of Smyrna were to be accorded the same treatment as the rest of the subjects of the Porte, and commanding him to see that this instruction was carried into effect. This letter was a result of a memorial from the Board on which Her Majesty's Ambassador had made effective representations to the Porte.

1861] The state of the Poor Laws, as a result of which able-bodied Jewish paupers were precluded from receiving a fair share of Poor relief, was the subject of a joint memorial to the Poor Law Commissioners from the Board and the Board of Guardians.

The Board's intervention on behalf of the Jews of Corfu through the medium of the Foreign Office had led to the publication by the metropolitan Archbishop of an encyclical letter, impressing on the inhabitants that harsh and inhuman treatment of the Israelites was totally at variance with the Christian faith. The letter constituted a veritable charter of liberty to the persecuted Jews.

A memorial was presented to the Foreign Office on the subject of the political and social disabilities of the Jews of Wallachia, and Her Majesty's Government brought the facts to the consideration of the Porte and of the Wallachian Government.

Lord Palmerston having presented to the Jews of Dover a piece of land for the erection of a Synagogue, received the thanks of the Board therefor.

A protest was addressed to Messrs. Chambers (Publishers) against a gross libel on the Jews contained in a story published in *Chambers's Journal*. The story credited the Jews with the murder and abduction of Christian children. The author, a Mr. Henry Spicer, accentuated the libel by writing, asserting his personal belief in the fable. The Publishers were pressed by the Board to withdraw the allegations, and as a result Messrs. Chambers wrote expressing their sincere regrets that they had taken any part in the publication in question, and the matter was allowed to drop.

1862] *Joseph M. Montefiore, President*] Fears as to an attack on the title of the Jews of Bagdad to their Synagogue and for the safety of a Rabbi imprisoned at Jerusalem occupied the consideration of the Board, which intervened in both cases.

A report of the aggravated sufferings of the Jews of Tunis reached the Board, and the recitals of their persecution in that City and of their eviction from their quarters by the Governor of Kaff, led to representations being made through the British Consul-General. The sympathies of the Foreign Office were also enlisted with entire success, in favour of the persecuted Jews of Tripoli.

Throughout the year the Alliance Israélite had kept the Board fully supplied with particulars of their exertions on behalf of a Jew condemned to hard labour by the Russian Courts for an alleged Ritual murder, but owing to certain proceedings in Parliament, in reference to the case (the nature of which is not shown in the Minutes), the Board

decided that it would be useless to co-operate for international action.

1863] An extraordinary case became the subject of an appeal to the Home Secretary. An aged Jew, becoming reduced in circumstances, was compelled to seek a home in London with his son, who had been converted to Roman Catholicism. Both in his will and in conversation with near relations a few days previous to his death, the old man had begged that he should be buried as a Jew, and he had made a nephew promise to see that this was done, but the old man's son asserted that his father had abjured his faith shortly before his death, and buried him with Catholic rites. The nephew applied to the Board for advice. The application to the Home Office for an order for re-interment was not successful.

This year the Morocco Relief Committee, formed by the Board in 1859 to cope with the distress consequent on the war between Spain and Morocco, presented its report. The fund collected amounted to £14,274 6s. 7d., and when all remittances and expenses were deducted, there was sufficient left to justify an investment of almost £6000 cash. The investments were placed in the names of Trustees (the Chief Rabbi, Sir Moses Montefiore, Mr. J. M. Montefiore, President *pro tem.*, and Mr. Van Praagh, Treasurer of the Board). The Board then decided to vest the administration of the fund in a Council which it appointed, and the election of which should, on all occasions, be contemporaneous with that of the Board itself. It was further resolved that £100 per annum out of the income should be applied towards Jewish education in Tetuan, £80 per annum to-

wards like education and sanitation in Tangier, and £70 for similar purposes at Mogador. Such grants, however, not to be of a permanent nature. No part of the funds was to be used otherwise than for the benefit of the Jews of Morocco without the Board's consent. Otherwise the Council was to be at liberty to frame its own rules and arrange for the appropriation and administration of the Fund.

Persecutions were still rife, and the good offices of the Government were enlisted on behalf of the Jews of Saffa in Arabia, who were given over to rapine and torture.

At Saffi, in Morocco, a false charge of murder had been trumped up, for which two Jews were executed, and two others were in peril of a like fate. The Foreign Office, on the Board's representation, sent out instructions for the protection of the Jews, but the result was in doubt. In spite of his advancing years (which had led him to refuse the pressing petition of the Board to again seek election as its President), Sir Moses Montefiore volunteered to leave on a "Mission" to Morocco, and his offer was gratefully accepted. His efforts were successful, and not only did he procure the liberation of the prisoners at Saffi, but two others who were imprisoned at Tangier were set free. He was accompanied on his mission by Mr. Haim Guedalla and Mr. Sampson Samuel.

Terrible distress among the Jews of Monastir led to the collection of a fund from the constituent Synagogues, which soon reached the large figure of £1400. The British Consul, Mr. Calvert, undertook its distribution.

1864] An interesting dispatch from the Foreign Office, in answer to a memorial of the Board, throws

light on the arrangements as to British protection afforded to Russian refugees at Jerusalem. By arrangement with the Russian Consul-General, made in 1849, those Jews only who declined to return to Russia, and so forfeited the protection of their country of birth, and could procure a "letter of dismissal" from the Russian Consulate depriving them of Russian protection, were entitled to receive British protection.

The condition and position of the Jews of Servia (whose rights, now ignored, had been provided for by guarantees at the time when—three years previously—autonomy had been presented to that country) were the subject of diplomatic intervention on the part of the French Jews. In 1842 the Karadjordjevitt [*sic*] dynasty had driven the Jews of Servia from the interior into a narrow Ghetto. The dynasty of Abrenovitz restored them their rights, but the National Assembly had piled up ordinances against them which reduced them to their former condition. A memorial from Belgrade was remitted by the Board to the Foreign Office.

A further outbreak against the Jews of Corfu led to the commencement of an exodus of the unfortunate people, but the Greek Government intervened, and the Board did its best to stem the tide of panic-stricken emigration.

From Curaçoa came a copy of an edict published by the local Chief Rabbi, condemning the introduction of reforms in public worship.

The Bayswater Synagogue, which was the joint property at that time of the Great and New Synagogues, applied to the Board for the certification of a Marriage Secretary, but the two owning bodies objected.

Troubles in Tripoli and Tunis also occupied the Board's attention this year.

The Board attempted to signify, by means of a presentation, its appreciation of the generous attention of Mr. Calvert, the British Consul-General at Monastir, to the condition of the local Jews and to the distribution of the fund collected by the Board, but he begged to be allowed to appropriate the intended expenditure towards alleviation of the local Jewish distress.

A notable sequel to Sir Moses' mission to Morocco was the reception by the Sultan of the leading Jews of the town of Demnat, when he heard their complaints, and, in order to avoid their recurrence, authorized them to appoint a Sheikh of their own religion, who should communicate direct with His Majesty, and ordered that any dispute between Moor and Jew should be heard by the Cadi in the presence of the Jewish Sheikh.

1865] The year opened with the news that a memorial to the Prince of Servia as to the unhappy condition of his Jewish subjects had been duly delivered through Her Majesty's Consul-General, with a recommendation that he should give it his favourable consideration. News was further received that the Consul-General had summoned the heads of the Jewish Community, and had informed them that he had received instructions to do what he could in their behalf. In April, however, fresh outrages necessitated a further application to the Foreign Office, which made fresh representations. The Prince, in acknowledging the Board's memorial, assured the Board of his solicitude for his subjects, without distinction of creed, and that the temporary disabilities of

the Jews would be removed as occasion permitted.

The Great and New Synagogues removed their objections to the appointment of a Marriage Secretary for their Branch, the Bayswater Synagogue, which had been based on a legal doubt as to whether it constituted a separate Synagogue. They had submitted a case to Counsel, and in support of the doubt showed that on the marriage of a seat-holder of the Bayswater Synagogue, he had to choose whether he would become a member of the Great or of the New Synagogue. In fact, the term "member" of the Bayswater Synagogue did not appear in its rules. Accordingly, there was a question whether a Marriage Secretary of the Bayswater Synagogue would be the "Secretary of the Synagogue to which the husband belongs," within the wording of the Act. Counsel's opinion was in the affirmative, and this removed the difficulty.

In July the Board was informed from New York of the reorganization of the Board of Delegates of American Israelites on the termination of the North and South War.

Distress among the Jews of the Holy Land, consequent upon visitations of locusts and cholera, was met by the formation of a Distress Committee and the opening of a Relief Fund, which reached the figure of £5225 19s. 5d., and included contributions from America and the Colonies.

In October the Board had to congratulate one of its members, Mr. Alderman B. S. Phillips, on his election to the Lord Mayoralty of the City of London, and in the same month it had to deplore the death of Lord Palmerston, who had been "a true friend and firm supporter of civil and religious liberty."

The ill-treatment of Jews in Persia was the cause of representations to the Foreign Office, as a result of which the Shah addressed an autograph letter to the inculpated Governor, enjoining him in future to treat the Jews with justice and kindness.

1866] The Morocco Relief Fund presented its first report to the Board, showing that it had instituted and was supporting schools at Mogador (100 pupils), Tetuan (200 pupils), and Tangier (400 pupils), in which Hebrew, English, Spanish, and French were taught.

In February the Board received a communication from the Registrar-General that a proposal was likely to be made to the Royal Commission on the Law of Marriage that in future any twenty householders of the Jewish religion might certify the appointment of a Marriage Secretary to the Registrar-General, and asking for the Board's opinion on the suggestion. The Board replied that, as on the former attempt to make a similar provision, it strongly disapproved.

In June the Foreign Office communicated to the Board an outrage on the Jews in a town in Persia, and that the Shah was instigating an inquiry. It similarly reported apprehensions of further disturbances at Jassy, which were happily averted.

A question arose in the same month as to whether a Jew who had been married according to the customs of the Jews and divorced by the Chief Rabbi (such divorce being granted in pursuance of the advice of eminent Counsel as to the validity of Jewish divorces obtained some nine years before), could re-marry in this country. On such question the Registrar-General took the advice of the Law

Officers for the Crown, whose opinion was that a marriage contracted between persons of the Jewish persuasion could not be dissolved by a Jewish tribunal.

A further outbreak at Bucharest was brought to the notice of Lord Stanley, who had succeeded the Earl of Clarendon at the Foreign Office, and who wrote that "he would always be ready to employ his good offices to save the Jews from persecution." His intervention on this occasion led to the punishment of the rioters.

The Parliamentary Oaths Act, 29 Vic. Cap. 19, prescribed one form of Oath for all Members of Parliament, such form being such that it could cause no offence to Jew or Gentile.

1867] The Hours of Labour Regulation Bill and the Factory Extension Bill were considered by the Board, and a memorial was dispatched to the Home Secretary, praying for exemption for those Jewish establishments which were closed on Saturdays till sunset, and for provisions enabling them to employ any child, young person, or woman on Saturday evenings in winter from sunset until nine o'clock, and in summer from sunset till eleven o'clock, so that, nevertheless, the total number of hours of work of such employees should not exceed sixty in the week. The suggestion was favourably received, and long negotiations ensued as to the exact nature of the concessions.

A new Sunday Trading Bill came under consideration, and the Board approached the Jewish Members of Parliament on the subject, and also memorialized the promoters of the measure, praying for modifications in favour of the Jews. Mr. Thomas Hughes, M.P. for Lambeth, consented

to put forward any amendment exempting Jewish butchers, provided such exemption only covered Kosher meat.

Appeals for assistance for the Jews of Dardanelles (whose quarter had been burnt out), from Brody (destruction of Synagogue), and from those of Tangier, Jassy, Teheran, Saffi, and Sidon, alleging outrages and wrongs, were all attended to. Funds were collected for the Dardanelles and Brody sufferers.

At Saffi the outbreak was so serious that on representations being made, the Sultan's Commissioner invited the European Consuls to his house, and promised that he would send a special commission of inquiry to investigate the complaints, and those persons who were found guilty were to be punished and compensation paid to the families of the murdered victims, and, as a result, practically complete justice was done to the satisfaction of the Jewish population.

The troubles of the Jews of Roumania were so grave that Sir Moses Montefiore decided to proceed on a mission to the Principality. All Jews had been ordered to be expelled as vagabonds, the inhabitants delivered them over to the soldiery for expulsion, and the situation was critical. Papers on the subject were called for in Parliament, and Lord Stanley assured the Board of the Foreign Office's active sympathy. The British Representative had a personal interview with Prince Charles, and pointed out to him the necessity of punishing the intolerance of his officials and their failure to protect his Jewish subjects.

1868] *Sir Moses Montefiore, President.* Fourteen Congregations returned Deputies at the Triennial election. A new-comer among the Metropolitan Synagogues was Borough (New), of which the Rev. S. Singer was the first Marriage Secretary.

In a letter addressed to Sir Moses Montefiore, the Roumanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, whom the Board addressed as to the ill-treatment of the Jews of Berlad, stated that Prince Charles was determined that "none of his subjects, whatever their faith, should suffer for his religion or for any other cause," that an inquiry should be held and indemnity given to the sufferers, and the Foreign Office informed the Board that satisfactory assurances had been received from the Prince as to the threatened anti-Jewish legislation.

The Sunday Trading Bill was again introduced.

Further troubles at Tetuan were represented to the Foreign Office, which instructed the British representative (Sir John Drummond Hay, a good friend of the Jews) to impress on the Sultan the necessity of strong measures.

An appeal was issued for the distressed Jews of East Prussia and Poland, and another for the Jews of Morocco.

The most important statute of the year affecting Jews was that which dealt with relief to paupers—a subject which had long engaged the attention of the Board. 31 and 32 Vic. Cap. 122 made ample provision for the registration of the religion of paupers seeking Poor Law relief, in order that provision might be made in workhouses and pauper schools for visitations of ministers of religion to such persons, and for due regard being given

to the wishes of parents of children in such schools as to their children's religious instruction.

An address was presented by the Board to the Provisional Government of Spain, praying for the revocation of the Edict of 1492, by which the Jews were expelled from that country. On the advice of the Foreign Secretary, the address was sent direct to the Spanish Government. It was favourably received, but without visible effect.

The Board was deeply concerned at the Report of the Royal Commission on the Laws of Marriage, which advocated a vital alteration in the law as to the registration of Jewish Marriages, and which would have practically stultified the control exercised by the Board in such matters. No opportunity had been afforded to the Board to give evidence on the subject, although Mr. Alderman Salomons, who had appeared as a private witness, and on whose recommendation the objectionable portion of the report was based, had himself suggested that the Solicitor and Secretary should be called. A memorial was therefore dispatched to Mr. Bruce, the Home Secretary, praying that, for the reasons given, the present law should not be altered.

Towards the end of the year a great loss was sustained in the death of Mr. Sampson Samuel, for thirty-five years Solicitor and Secretary to the Board.

Irregular marriages at Newcastle and Manchester were notified to the Board. Unfortunately, the provisions of 6 and 7 Will. Cap. 85, which made the improper solemnization of marriages a felony, excluded marriages between persons professing the Jewish religion "according to the usages

of the Jews," and the Board found itself unable to bring pressure to bear to stop these practices.

1869] Mr. Lewis Emanuel was appointed Solicitor and Secretary in the place of Mr. Sampson Samuel.

The conviction of Jewish occupiers of workshops led to a resolution that in any Factory and Workshop legislation which should come before Parliament, the Board should take steps to procure a clause amending the Factory Acts so that Jewish occupiers of Factories and Workshops should not be liable to penalties for employing children, young persons, or women on Saturdays. The recent report of the Inspector of Factories had commented on the hardship suffered by Jews under the existing legislation.

The University of Cambridge having conferred the degree of B.A. on Mr. Numa Hartog, Senior Wrangler, in a form which did not offend his religious scruples as a Jew, the Board offered its congratulations and thanks to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, and received a most gratifying reply. In connection with the same subject, the Board presented a petition to Parliament in favour of the University Tests Bill. The petition was presented by the Solicitor-General.

A fund was opened under the auspices of the Board for the poor Jews of West Russia, decimated by pestilence and famine.

An amendment to the Sunday Trading Bill (introduced into Parliament by Mr. Hughes and Lord Claud Hamilton) was framed in favour of Jewish traders, and the reception of a Jewish Deputation on the same subject was asked for,

and the Members of Parliament were circularized to support the Board's views.

Information was received that M. Cogolisan had published directions that the Jews of Moldavia were to be harried wherever found in the villages or large towns. The Board sought the intervention of the Foreign Office. The Earl of Clarendon at once instructed Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bucharest to protest against M. Cogolisan's Circular, and to urge its withdrawal, and received an assurance from M. Boeresco (Minister of Justice) that in future the Jews should be better treated.

A visit of Prince Charles of Roumania to Paris determined the Board to ask its veteran President to cross the Channel so as to bring the persecution of the Jews of his country direct to his notice. Sir Moses accepted the duty. The Prince, however, left Paris a few hours before Sir Moses could reach it, and a Petition from the Board to Prince Charles was therefore substituted for the contemplated personal interview. The document referred at length to the Prince's reply to a Petition presented by Sir Moses in 1867, in which he had stated that "the Israelites are the object of the anxious solicitude of myself and my Government. I should always consider it a matter of honour to maintain religious liberty, and I shall keep a watchful eye on the enforcement of the laws which protect the Israelite in the same manner as all other Roumanians in their persons and in their property," and to the non-accomplishment of his wishes in this respect.

A memorial to the Foreign Secretary, urging that the new Constitution about to be adopted in Servia, whereby equal rights and privileges were to be granted to all denominations *except*

the Jews, should be modified to prevent such a scandalous exception. Reference was made in the appeal to the fact that the provision of complete religious equality was one of the conditions under which the independence of Servia (subject to the suzerainty of the Porte) was guaranteed by England and the other great Powers. As a result, the British Government in continuation of a policy which it had consistently adopted, strongly remonstrated against the policy of intolerance which was complained of, and the Governments of France and Austria combined in the protest. Evasive replies were given to these remonstrances.

In October a special meeting was convened for the purpose of passing an address of congratulation to Mr. Alderman Salomons, M.P., the champion of the Jews in their fight for religious emancipation, on whom Her Majesty had conferred the honour of a Baronetcy.

Illegal marriages at Hull and Grimsby were notified, and the Registrar-General was communicated with thereon.

1870] A Deputation waited on the Board in January from the Jewish Tailors' Benefit Society on the question of the undue pressure of the existing factory legislation on Jews who kept their factories and workshops closed on the Sabbath, and it was resolved to petition the Home Secretary, and to ask him to receive a Deputation on the subject of further modifications of the original Factory and Workshop legislation, the modification already made in 1867 as a result of the Board's representations enabling Jews who closed on the Sabbath

to employ young persons and women on Saturdays from sunset till 9 p.m. being found to be insufficient and of little practical value. A memorial was accordingly prepared and presented to the Home Secretary, and a Deputation from the Board waited upon him. He promised consideration of any clauses the Board should prepare, and that he would do his best to cure the evil (which he recognized) by means of the Factory legislation which was already in contemplation. Later, on the introduction of the Factory Acts Amendment Bill, he notified that the Government would not oppose the desired clauses, which were accordingly set down by Mr. Serjeant Simon, M.P., in a form permitting work in closed Factories and Workshops till the hour of 2 p.m. on Sundays, where the occupier was a Jew and kept closed on the Sabbath. The Select Committee, to which the Bill was referred, while recognizing that the Jews had a grievance which should be remedied, recommended that it should not be dealt with in that particular measure, and the Bill passed without the Amendment.

The Board prepared forms of Petitions to be signed by the Wardens of Congregations in favour of the abolition of University Tests, and presented them to the Houses of Parliament.

The Elementary Education Bill of this year was duly considered, and provisions by way of amendment in favour of Jewish students were framed and put forward. The modifications affected the rights of Jewish children to absent themselves from school on Sabbaths and Holy Days, and to provide for the religious instruction being given at the beginning or end of the working day, so as to avoid waste of time to those

who were allowed to withdraw from such instruction. Mr. Serjeant Simon, M.P., took charge of the amendments.

The Board collected a fund for the starving Jews of Jerusalem.

1871] Thirty-eight Deputies were elected at the Triennial election of this year, namely, 20 for 9 Metropolitan Synagogues, and 18 for 18 provincial Synagogues.

Sir David Salomons introduced a Bill to amend the existing Factory and Workshop legislation, and amendments to the same were prepared by the Board. The Bill, as introduced, had one great defect, namely, that it applied to none but tobacco factories.

The University Tests Act received Royal assent.

The Board opened a fund for the relief of the famine-stricken Jewish population of Persia.

In view of the increase in the Board's work, the salary of the Solicitor and Secretary was raised from £150 to £200 per annum.

The Ballot Bill which, if passed in its original form, would have disfranchised Jews on the occasion of an election taking place on a Saturday, was the subject of representations from the Board, which urged amendments to enable Jewish voters' papers to be marked for them. The Bill failed to become law.

A letter was read to the Board informing it of the foundation of the Anglo-Jewish Association, and asking for the co-operation of the Board with the Association when occasion might require. A further letter enclosed a copy of an address which the Association had dispatched to the Emperor of Russia with regard to an outrage

at Odessa. In view of the fact that the case of persecuted Jews abroad had been ably undertaken by the Board for over one hundred years, the Board's reply was not favourable to co-operation.

A memorial was dispatched to the Shah of Persia, calling his attention to the action of certain of his Governors who gave to any apostate relation of a deceased Jew the sole right of taking the deceased's property.

1872] An attack on the Jews of Roumania led to an application to the Foreign Office, which promptly intervened. The Roumanian Government promised an inquiry and reparation.

The Ballot Act passed in a form which enabled Jewish voters' papers to be marked for them on the election taking place on the Sabbath.

A detailed report was prepared by the Law and Parliamentary Committee as to the great advantage which would accrue to Synagogues which should be registered as places of worship under 18 and 19 Vic. Cap. 81, and such report was circulated among all unregistered Synagogues.

An apprehension that no inquiry was made on the committal of children to Industrial Schools or Reformatories, as to the religion to which such children belonged, led to the reference of the whole subject of Industrial Schools and Reformatories to the Law and Parliamentary Committee. A full report was submitted to the Board, which showed that though there was a duty to ascertain the religious persuasion to which a child belonged, with a view to sending him to an Institution in connection with such persuasion, yet, as there was no Jewish Institution of that nature, the law could not come

into operation. Inquiries were made of some thirty-six Institutions throughout the country, and it was learnt that at only nine of them were any questions asked as to the religion of a child committed to them, and at only five of these would any dispensation for attendance at divine service be granted in the case of a child ascertained to be a Jew. Through the assistance of the official in superintendence of these Institutions, it was ascertained that Jewish children could be grouped conveniently into a few of these at a slight extra expense per head, with concessions as to religious instruction. The United Synagogue was invited to co-operate for the purpose of securing some such arrangement. For this purpose a Joint Committee was formed.

An outbreak against the Jews of Smyrna led to the prompt intervention of the Foreign Office, and the Turkish Government at once took the necessary steps to bring the assailants to justice. Both the Turkish Ambassador and Earl Granville throughout kept the Board informed of all steps taken in the matter.

The Persian Relief Fund reached the total of £18,989 odd.

The President of the Board, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Peter the Great, proceeded to St. Petersburg and personally presented to the Czar the address of the Board. The Czar at the time was at the military manœuvres, but came back to the Winter Palace to save the aged Sir Moses the fatigue of a further journey to him.

Two cases of refusals by Marriage Secretaries to attend and register marriages were satisfactorily settled through the Board's intervention.

Oppressive laws restricting the trading of Jews

in Roumania were brought to the notice of the Foreign Office, with an appeal for intervention. The Foreign Secretary thereupon addressed a remonstrance to the Foreign Minister, and forwarded a copy of the same to the Board. Information was later received that the enforcement of the law had been allowed to lapse.

The deliberations of the Joint Committee of the Board and the Visitation Committee of the United Synagogue resulted in arrangements being made by which Jewish boys and girls were in future to be grouped in the Gem Street Industrial School, Birmingham, the extra cost of maintenance being guaranteed to the extent of £50 per annum by the United Synagogue. The religious education for such children was undertaken by the Birmingham Congregation through its minister, the Rev. G. J. Emanuel. The question of Reformatories still remained to be dealt with.

The Board intervened to rescue from proselytizers a Jewish boy who had been sent to England, from Poland, to join an uncle who had left the country before the lad arrived.

An address to the Shah of Persia (who was then visiting England) produced a reply, in which he stated that he would take care that no injustice was done to his Jewish subjects, whom he characterized as loyal, peaceable, and industrious. Copies of the letter were made in Persian and Hebrew and circulated among the Synagogues in Persia.

The Foreign Office communicated to the Board a Law which had passed the Diet emancipating the Jews of Croatia and Slavonia, and putting them on the same footing as other denominations.

The Registrar-General consulted the Board as to the validity of a Russian-Jewish Divorce, and

the Board also advised as to the case of a couple married in this country who had gone abroad, and there obtained a Jewish divorce.

It having been learnt that some of the Provincial Synagogues were neglecting to preserve their old marriage registers with proper care, a letter on the subject was circulated throughout the provinces.

In December the Constitution of the Board was revised. Among the alterations were :—

(1) The insertion of an express provision that the Board should exert its influence (as it always had without such a provision) in favour of Foreign Jewish Communities and individuals suffering from wrong, or oppression, or misfortune.

(2) The inclusion of a provision that for such purpose the Board might co-operate with any bodies, persons, or institutions.

(3) Provision was made for the inclusion of the West London Synagogue, only one vote being cast against the removal of the disability which the old Constitution had entailed.

(4) Power was given to the Board by a resolution adopted by a majority of not less than three-fourths of those present, on proper notice, and confirmed at a subsequent meeting, to disfranchise a Synagogue or to deprive a member of the Board of his seat.

(5) Annual reports instead of semi-annual reports were introduced.

1874] Correspondence entered on the Minutes showed that the West London Congregation refused to accept the invitation of the Board to elect Deputies as provided for in the new Constitution, on the ground that some of the clauses in the

Constitution were inconsistent with the principles upon which the Synagogue was founded. Among the clauses so referred to were those which left the guidance of the Board on matters involving religious questions with the Chief Rabbis of the German and Spanish and Portuguese Congregations, and which provided that, on a requisition by ten male seatholders of a Synagogue, such Synagogue should convene a meeting to deliberate on any measure about to be undertaken by the Board, and that if the meeting dissented from such measure, and the Deputies of the Synagogues dissenting formed a majority of the Board, the measure should not be proceeded with.

Applications received with regard to Education of Jews abroad were referred to the Anglo-Jewish Association.

The Board, in making inquiries to lead to satisfactory arrangements being made for Jewish inmates of Reformatories, learnt officially that there were no Jews at that time in Reformatories, and only one (a girl) in an Industrial School.

Famine in the Holy Land was the occasion of a grant of some £2000, the balance of the Holy Land Relief Fund, towards the relief of the distress, and the collection of a fresh Fund was organized.

The introduction of a Factory Bill by Mr. Cross was the occasion of the presentation by the Board of a series of suggestions for the relief of Jewish occupiers of factories and workshops to whom the relief afforded by the Act of 1871 was either inapplicable or insufficient. The assistance of Mr. Serjeant Simon, M.P., and Mr. N. de Rothschild, M.P., was enlisted to see the Board's amendments through the House of Commons, but, owing to the alterations made in the character of the Bill in Committee, it

became impracticable to press them forward. Promises, however, were obtained that the grievances should be considered by a Commission which would shortly be sitting.

The refusal of the visiting Justices of the Wandsworth House of Correction to allow Jewish prisoners to abstain from labour on the Festivals (an abstinence permitted in all other prisons) had long engaged the attention of the Board and the Visitation Committee of the United Synagogue. A memorial was dispatched to the Justices on the subject.

The Board received information this year that the new Sultan of Morocco on his accession had definitely placed the Jews under his protection.

Prosecutions against Jewish joiners and cabinet-makers at Hull were the subject of correspondence.

Joseph Mayer Montefiore, President] Sir Moses Montefiore resigned the office of President (which he had held for upwards of thirty years), on the ground of increasing old age. Although the Constitution did not seem so to provide, the Board elected Sir Moses an Hon. Member, with power to attend all meetings. It was left to Sir Moses to decide what form a permanent memorial of his work should take. He decided that the proposed Fund should be devoted to the amelioration of the conditions of the Jews of the Holy Land, by means of industrial pursuits, and the erection of model dwellings, particularly with a view to terrace-gardening and fruit-production.

The action of the Board in bringing pressure to bear on the Synagogues to safeguard their registers had brought in good fruit, and the Minutes constantly showed action taken throughout the

country for depositing the Registers in safes or at a Bank.

An alarming outbreak of illness at Safed led to the Board's engaging a Jewish medical officer to attend to the needs of the poor of the city. Mainly owing to the exertions of Mr. Samuel Montagu* in collecting a fund for the purpose, a similar officer was appointed to cope with the plague at Hebron.

1875] The Foreign Secretary forwarded to the Board a long dispatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople as to the extraordinary and gratifying good feeling on the part of the Turks towards the Jews.

The Law and Parliamentary Committee dealt with a serious case of irregular marriage at Leeds.

The Board asked to be allowed to give evidence before the Factory Act Commission, and the President, Mr. M. S. Oppenheim, and the Solicitor and Secretary were deputed for that purpose. Mr. Oppenheim acted as spokesman, and showed that the Board had intervened when the Acts of 1867 were before Parliament to obtain some relaxation for Jews, and though not entirely successful, it induced the Government to adopt clauses in each of the Factory Bills of that year, permitting Jews who closed their factories and workshops during the Sabbath to employ women and young persons from sunset until 9 p.m. on Saturday. The Workshops and Factories Committees sitting in 1871 admitted the Board's contention that this was insufficient, and adopted a resolution to that effect. On this Sir David Salomons brought for-

* Now, Lord Swaythling.

ward a Bill (which passed) permitting Jewish hands only to work on Sundays if the employer closed on the Sabbath, but no factories other than those of the tobacco industry were affected by this Bill, Sir David Salomons not being willing to endanger the passing of the Bill by amending it to apply to all factories. The Board's representatives, therefore, asked that in any new legislation the hours of employment on the Saturday evening (which were available for employees of all faiths) should be lengthened, that the provisions for Sunday employment should be extended to all factories, and that some alternative provision should be made, allowing the loss of hours on Saturday to be made up by extra hours for labour on weekdays.

In October the Board passed an address of congratulation to the Chief Rabbi on his escape from death in consequence of the act of an insane person while attending service at the Great Synagogue.

On two occasions this year the Board assisted the Registrar to solve difficulties which had arisen with reference to Jewish marriages.

A Petition was addressed to Her Majesty's Foreign Office, reporting the brutal murder of a young Jew at Teheran, who had been falsely accused of blasphemy, and had fled to the house of a Persian Priest for safety. The latter handed him over to the populace, who burnt him alive in the Jewish burial-ground. The Board referred to the Shah's firman promising security to the Jews from oppression, and begged for the Foreign Office's intervention to secure the punishment of those responsible for the outrage and prevention of further excesses. As a result, proper

punishment was meted out to the murderers and the family of the victim were compensated.

An outbreak of anti-Semitism at Tiberias, leading to the imprisonment of seventeen Jews, subsequently released through the intervention of Her Majesty's Consul at Beyrout, led to representations being made to the Foreign Office for the regranting of British protection to a number of members of the Community, who until lately had enjoyed such protection.

1876] Some three hundred Jews at Zergoon, in Persia, begged for the interposition of the Board, they being oppressed with the object of driving them to a renunciation of their faith. The Foreign Office at once telegraphed instructions to the British representative to take the necessary steps to obtain relief for the sufferers. An order was at once given to the Governor of the city to take the Jews under his special protection.

The Board's memorial to the Justices of Surrey as to the status of Jewish inmates of the Wandsworth prison not having yet brought any result, a further memorial was addressed to the Home Secretary. The Justices referred the question to the Visiting Justices, who asked the Board to furnish them with information as to facilities given to Jews in prisons both in the United Kingdom and abroad, and reported in favour of the concessions asked for. The Surrey Justices very shortly notified the Board that they had adopted the report. The Board's memorial had been throughout very strongly supported by Baron George de Worms, one of the Visiting Justices.

Various appeals for the support of Jewish schools abroad were refused for want of funds applicable for the same.

The persecution of Jews in Arabia was brought to the attention of the Ambassador of the Porte in London, who procured the necessary relief, and was able to inform the Board that the Governor had received instructions to give all possible protection to the Jews.

In April the Board was gratified to learn that the Workshop Commission had recommended the adoption of the most important of the three concessions for which the Board had asked. The report was at once circulated among the Synagogues, and copies were sent to the Jewish Members of Parliament, begging them, on the introduction of legislation, to press for the amendments which were recommended by the Commission. Mr. Serjeant Simon, M.P., and Mr. Saul Isaac, M.P., promised their assistance to this end.

In the same month the Board received a letter from the Rev. A. Löwy, Secretary of the Anglo-Jewish Association, suggesting a conference of the two bodies with a view to securing uniformity of action. The result was unsuccessful, the Board resolving that it could not consent to restrict its powers of action as the representative Body of the Jews in matters affecting Jews abroad and necessitating representations to be made to Foreign Governments, and the Anglo-Jewish Association being unable to accede to this.

The Jews of Spain had not yet received their hoped-for charter, so the Board presented a further memorial through the Foreign Office to King Alfonso, and also to the Cortes, begging that it might be provided in the Constitution that Jews should be permitted to settle in that country, and should have civil and religious freedom.

A Select Committee on Parliamentary and

Municipal elections advised that all assistance to voters in filling in their papers should be discontinued in case of physical incapacity on the part of the voter. The Board represented to Sir Charles Dilke (Chairman of the Committee) the hardship this would entail on Jewish voters at Saturday elections, who would be thereby deprived of the advantage secured to them by the Ballot Act (1872).

In July the negotiations for a commercial treaty between Roumania, England, and France, which, if completed, would mean the exclusion of British Jews from trading benefits, necessitated a memorial to the Foreign Office, and the Alliance Universelle were provided with a copy of the document. The Foreign Office assured the Board that a treaty on the lines proposed would never be accepted by Her Majesty's Government. The Board was able to inform it that the French Government was similarly minded.

Complaints from the Jews of Mekinez in Morocco led to a memorial on the subject being addressed to the British Consul at Mogador.

A complaint that worshippers at the Bayswater Synagogue were annoyed by persons standing in the lobby at the doors distributing tracts was referred to the Solicitor and Secretary to look into the Acts of Parliament dealing with the subject. He subsequently advised that the intrusion was a punishable offence, and the nuisance was stopped.

The Board memorialized the Government that at the intended conference on the Eastern Question, provision should be made that the Jews should receive the same treatment as the other inhabitants. Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople

replied to the Foreign Office's inquiry that the Jews would benefit equally with all others by the removal of the disabilities formerly attaching to the non-Mussulman population. The Foreign Secretary concluded that the representations of the Board should be forwarded to Her Majesty's Agents at Belgrade and Bucharest.

In November the Council for the Administration of the Morocco Relief Fund appointed in 1860 made an exhaustive report to the Board. The income of the funds at its disposal were apportioned as follows: £100 was paid towards education in Tetuan, £80 for like purposes in Tangier, and £80 in Mogador. A point was made of devoting a considerable portion of the school hours to the study of English. The balance was expended in sanitary work in Mogador, and pensions.

The Board represented to the Tower Hamlets' Coroner the hardships of summoning Jews to serve on Coroner's Juries on the Sabbath and Festivals, and he replied that persons so affected had only to give notice to the officer and they would be excused.

Monthly meetings on fixed days (the second Tuesday) in each month were instituted this year.

An appeal from the Jews of Roumania for relief against an Edict issued for the expulsion of Jews from certain districts, which was being enforced with great cruelty, was forwarded to the Foreign Office. Other Edicts on the same lines unfortunately followed, and in one district alone 1500 inhabitants were expelled, and their destitution led to the Board collecting a Relief Fund for their aid. The Foreign Office instructed the British Consul-General to make an earnest appeal to the Roumanian Government on the subject of the Edicts. As a

result, the Roumanian Government expressed its disapprobation of the orders, and dismissed four officials for promulgating them.

In view of the urgency of the Roumanian troubles, it was resolved that a Committee for Foreign Affairs should be appointed by the Board, but apparently no such Committee was actually appointed for some years.

The Solicitor and Secretary presented a report on existing treaties with Roumania, which showed that Austria alone had a permanent treaty, the other obligations being in the nature of Provisional declarations of a temporary character. He was of opinion that on the interpretation which the Roumanian Courts had placed on the Austrian Treaty, Austrian Jews were in Roumania deprived of the benefits secured to other Austrian subjects. The Board accordingly urged the Government not to enter into any treaty which could be interpreted as placing British Jews in any worse position than other British subjects.

Mr. M. S. Oppenheim gave notice of a motion to subject all members of the Board who absented themselves from a meeting of the Board without previously sending an apology to a fine of three guineas. At the next meeting he withdrew his motion, and it is interesting to note that had it been carried, he would, at the subsequent meeting, have been the first Deputy to become liable to the fine.

In view of the contemplated introduction of a further Factory Acts Amendment Bill, an interview was obtained with the Chief Inspector of Factories, and he was urged to secure the insertion of clauses in favour of the Jews. The Bill when printed was found to contain two out of the three

provisions for which the Board had asked in its evidence before the Commission, and Serjeant Simon, M.P., Sir N. de Rothschild, M.P., Sir F. H. Goldsmid, M.P., Mr. Julian Goldsmid, M.P., and Mr. Saul Isaac, M.P., were asked to carefully watch these clauses and the passage of the Bill through Parliament, and all consented.

In July it was resolved that the Anglo-Jewish Association should be invited to appoint a Committee of seven to confer with seven members of the Board with a view to bring about concerted action in matters concerning foreign affairs in which the two bodies would otherwise act independently. The Conference took place on the 11th December.

Terrible drought and famine in the Holy Land led the Board to open and administer a Relief Fund for the sufferers.

The Board successfully intervened to settle a dispute as to the custody of certain marriage registers at Manchester.

1878] A resolution was passed that when a European Congress of the Powers should assemble, an address should be presented to the British Government, urging it to endeavour to secure civil and religious liberty for the Jewish inhabitants of any autonomous States that might be dealt with at such Congress.

A fresh reminder was addressed to the Foreign Office as to the necessity of providing in the pending Commercial Treaty with Roumania for the same rights for British Jews as for other British subjects.

The Factory Act passed with the inclusion of the Jewish clauses (50 and 51). These clauses permitted Jewish occupiers of factories and workshops who closed their factories throughout the

Sabbath to employ young persons and women from sunset till 9 p.m. on Saturday, or if they remained closed the whole of Saturday to employ them one extra hour each other day, or to employ young persons and women of the Jewish faith on a Sunday, so long as the factory or workshop was not *open for traffic* on that day.

In May the Board adopted a scheme for joint action with the Anglo-Jewish Association. A joint Committee was to be formed, consisting of a Committee of seven members of each Board. Neither Body was to ask for the interference of Her Majesty's Government before a meeting of the joint Committee had been held. The members of each Committee were to vote apart at all meetings, and if they were unable to agree, the matter in question was to be referred back to the Parent Bodies, which should then be at liberty to act independently.

It was found that the Rules issued by the Prison Commissioners under the Prison Act of 1877, whilst exempting Jewish prisoners from labour on the Sabbath, did not, in terms, similarly exempt them on the Festivals, although in 1856 the then Home Secretary, in response to the Board's application, had authorized the various Governors of prisons to exempt Jewish prisoners on both Sabbaths and Festivals. The Board brought the point to the notice of the Home Secretary, and he forthwith circulated supplemental orders, which not only gave the required relief, but also provided that prisoners whose sentence expired on a Sabbath or Holy-day should be released on the previous day.

In June, the Congress of Berlin being then sitting, the Conjoint Foreign Committee addressed

a long dispatch to Lord Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury, the British Plenipotentiaries. They referred to the violation by Roumania of its treaty obligations to grant equality to all sections of its people, by providing (through the means of legislative enactments), that its Jews were not Roumanians, but aliens, and urged that provision should be made by the Congress so that the Jews of Roumania, Servia, Bulgaria, and the other provinces affected by the Congress should be given equal rights with the other inhabitants. Lord Beaconsfield, in reply, promised that these representations should be duly considered. Shortly afterwards the Board received information that the Congress had resolved to secure religious equality to all the inhabitants of Roumania. This assurance, however, was not considered sufficiently reliable in the view of other information received, and a fresh memorial was sent to the British Plenipotentiaries, and an interview was sought with Lord Salisbury early in 1879, when he assured the Board that full religious equality was the aim of Her Majesty's representatives.

An irregular marriage at Hull was followed by a strong warning by the Board to the parties interested.

1879] The Criminal Code (Indictable Offences) Bill was the subject of a special report.

A Jewish tailor of Hull convicted for working a machine on Sunday appealed to the Board. The Law and Parliamentary Committee prepared a most careful report on the case as affected by the various Workshop and other Acts. Had the tailor been an employee, and either a young person

or a woman, he would have been protected from conviction by the Act of 1878. As it was, his conviction was strictly legal under the Lord's Day Act.

Action was taken to mass Jewish opinion against a Bill which proposed to levy a tax of 1% on the gross income of all charities required to make annual returns to the Charity Commission. The Bill failed to become law.

In the course of the negotiations between the Powers and Roumania as to the position of the Jews in that country, the procedure proposed by Roumania was considered by the Board so evasive and unsatisfactory that a further memorial was dispatched to Lord Salisbury, showing that the aims of the British representatives had been stultified by Roumania, and that the restrictive laws against the Jews were, with one minor exception, all still existing.

At the Triennial Election held this year 26 Deputies were elected for 14 London Synagogues, and 13 for 13 Provincial congregations.

1880] The year opened with a memorial to the Foreign Office as to the cruel and unpunished murder of an aged Jew near Tetuan, and the attention of the British representative at Tangier was promised.

The Board contributed towards the expenses of a Jew named Morris of taking proceedings to get back his son who had been enticed from his home by proselytizers, and the services of its Solicitor and Secretary were put at his disposal. The result was that possession of the boy was at once recovered.

As it was likely that the date to be fixed for the Parliamentary Elections in the City and Metropolitan Boroughs would clash with the seventh day of Passover, letters were written to the Liberal and Conservative Committees, asking them to avoid such days, and the Presidents of the Provincial Synagogues were urged to use like pressure in their districts. Three Metropolitan Boroughs having actually fixed the sacred day for their Elections, a deputation from the Board waited upon the Returning Officers, and all consented to make the required alteration. In one case an extra expense was thereby occasioned to the Returning Officer, amounting to about £15, and this the Board reimbursed. Information as to the steps so taken was forwarded to Melbourne and Victoria, where the elections for the House of Assembly had been fixed for a Saturday and the local Jews were doubtful how to act.

A case of irregular marriage at Leeds was investigated by the Board, and the necessary steps taken to avoid the evil which would otherwise result.

The Board was consulted by the Chief Rabbi as to the custom which was growing up of administering the Oath to Jews with the substitution of the Tetragrammaton for the word "God." The Board advised that the change was as unjustifiable as it was obnoxious.

Affairs in Morocco seriously engaged the attention of the Board. The unfortunate decision of the British Government to withdraw British protection, formerly extended to a number of Morocco Jews, was immediately followed by twelve murders, and only in a few cases did representations result in punishment of the murderers and com-

pensation to the families of the murdered. In the cases in which justice was done, it was generally due to the personal exertions of Sir John Drummond Hay, always a staunch champion of the Jews. Lord Grenville consented to make provision that the Jews, although no longer under British protection, could still address their appeals direct to Her Majesty's representative in cases where they were unable otherwise to obtain justice. A suggestion from the Sultan that his Foreign Minister should act as the protector of the Jews created such alarm among the latter, that the Board was obliged to ask the Foreign Office to get the suggestion withdrawn.

A further appeal to the Jewish public for funds to relieve distress in the Holy Land was issued.

The Burial Bill, Marriages Registration Bill, and other measures which might possibly affect the Jews were carefully watched, and objection was raised to an amendment to the first-named measure, which would have permitted the use of the Jewish burial service in non-Jewish Churchyards. On the Board's opposition the amendment was withdrawn.

Arthur Cohen, K.C., M.P., President] Mr. Arthur Cohen was appointed President in October, on the death of Mr. J. M. Montefiore.

On the Board's representations squatters on the Nevis Disused Burial-ground were removed, other land being found for them by the Colonial Government, and the Board raised a fund for the maintenance of the ground. The Governor throughout interested himself personally in this matter, and acted with the greatest generosity and consideration.

1881] A remonstrance was addressed to the Judge of the Middlesboro' County Court, who was reported to have stated to a Jewish defendant that it was part of the Jewish religion to exact heavy interest, and that a Jew, therefore, should not complain of being fleeced.

An Amendment was framed to the Ballot Act Continuance and Amendment Bill, the effect of which was to extend to the Holy Days the privilege enjoyed by Jews of having their ballot paper marked for them at Elections occurring on the Sabbath.

An estimate of the number of Jews in Great Britain, prepared by the Solicitor and Secretary, and based on the interments, in 1880 showed the approximate figure to be 62,656.

A Fund was opened for the Jews of Western Persia and Kurdistan, who were suffering from plague, famine, and invasion.

The Conjoint Foreign Committee was full of anxious work. In addition to the case of a Jewish girl who had been cruelly bastinadoed at Drama, in Macedonia, which received their attention, there was the murder of Mr. Benoliel and three other Jews in Morocco, ill-treatment of Jews at Terudant, Entifa, and Morocco city, and an endeavour on the part of King John of Abyssinia to compel his Jewish subjects to embrace Christianity. Most serious of all was the receipt of news of an alarming outbreak against the Jews in South Russia, which resulted in a great loss of life and property. The civil and military authorities took no steps to stop the rioters, and merely looked on. A Deputation waited on the Foreign Secretary, and begged that representations should be made to the Russian Government, but Earl Granville was of opinion that

this would not be justified by international usage as it was an interference with the domestic affairs of a foreign country, and might have an adverse effect. He promised, however, to mention the subject unofficially to the Russian Ambassador. The result was shown in the punishment of the ringleaders of the riot. A fund was opened for the sufferers, and reached the figure of £6050. Unfortunately the condition of the Jews remained deplorable and precarious, and in November the Conjoint Foreign Committee resolved that those who were present at the meeting held that month, and at the previous meeting, should constitute a Committee to be named "The Russo-Jewish Committee" (with power to add to their number), to consider and adopt such measures as they should think fit for ameliorating the condition of the Jews of Russia.

A protest made to *The Globe* newspaper for an article in its columns which suggested that there were grounds for a belief in the "Blood Accusation," was followed by the publication of a satisfactory paragraph of regret.

In July the many years of negotiations between the Board and the Spanish Government ended in a letter received from the Spanish Ambassador to the effect that there was no longer any restriction on Jews settling in Spain.

The Board was also notified that to ensure the safety of the Jews of Persia, Prince Zil As Sultan had taken them under his protection. The Foreign Office also informed the Board that well-founded cases of unredressed ill-treatment in Persia might be referred to Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran, who would make the necessary representations.

The finding in Alexandria of the body of a dead

Greek boy, a few weeks before Passover, led to the accusation that he had been the victim of a Jewish Ritual murder. The medical evidence, however, showed conclusively that he had died by drowning, and that the suggestion that his blood had been used for ritual purposes was false, as no blood had been extracted. The populace, however, charged a Greek Jewish family, named Baruch, with the murder, and was so menacing towards the Jews that the Greek authorities shirked a trial before an ordinary tribunal, and accordingly an International Commission was appointed.

The Board had previously begged the Foreign Office to intervene to ensure a fair trial, and was gratified to learn that our Government had consented to appoint a British Commissioner to take part in the trial. The Commission acquitted the accused. After the acquittal the local authorities, not being content, decided to send the accused again to trial at Corfu. At the second trial the Baruchs were again acquitted, and the incident ended.

1882] In February the Board seriously interested itself in the completion of special arrangements for Jewish candidates affected by examination papers being set for the Sabbaths and Holy Days. The occasion arose on the Cambridge Local Examination Board fixing one of their examinations to take place on a Saturday. Through the consideration of the Authorities arrangements were made, on the application of the Board, which, to some extent, prevented the Jewish Candidates from being placed at a disadvantage.

The Board adopted a system of assessing the

represented Synagogues towards its expenses, by which the smaller congregations (having under one hundred male seatholders) were in future to pay two shillings per male seatholder per year, instead of being assessed in their full quota of the year's expenses.

In March a long report was presented by the Law and Parliamentary Committee on the case of Mr. Lewisohn, a naturalized British subject, who, furnished with a British passport, visited Russia on business, but was ordered to leave within twenty-four hours. The validity of the Order depended on the interpretation of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation (1859) between Great Britain and Russia. Such treaty provided that the subjects of the two nations should have liberty to come and go to all parts of the Kingdoms, and enjoy the same privileges as were enjoyed by native subjects generally, and that the subjects of the one contracting party, conforming to the laws of the country, should have full power to travel or reside in any part of the country of the other. The contention of the Russian Government was that the Jews of Great Britain entering Russia had no greater rights than Russian Jews, and were therefore subject to the same laws as to domicile, etc. The question had been raised as early as 1862 by Lord Palmerston, and it was then admitted that, so far as British Jewish residents in Russia were concerned, the interpretation of the Treaty was a fair one. The Committee was of opinion that even as to "settlers" the interpretation was strained, and that it did not apply to merely temporary visitors to Russia, and accordingly addressed the Foreign Office on the subject. Apparently the Law Officers of the Crown

were consulted, and reported that the Board's construction of the treaty could not be sustained.

The Board placed the services of its Solicitor and Secretary at the disposal of the relations of a Jewish girl, between thirteen and fourteen years of age, who had been induced to enter a Roman Catholic Home.

1883] At the Triennial Election held this year 27 Deputies were elected for 14 Metropolitan, and 18 for 18 Provincial Synagogues.

A successful application was made to the War Office to allow Jewish soldiers to keep the week of Passover.

In reply to the Board's invitation, the West London Synagogue wrote that the reasons which had prevented it electing representatives in 1874, still obtained, and it was therefore regretfully precluded from electing representatives. A Special Committee of the Board were appointed to consider the matter.

The salary of the Solicitor and Secretary was raised from £200 to £250 per annum.

Mr. S. Montagu presented the Board with a donation of £20,* this being the first donation received by the Board in pursuance of a provision in the new Constitution, which provided that the Board should be competent to receive donations and legacies.

Much time was devoted to the case of the Jewish girl, named Roseberg, who was an inmate of a Roman Catholic Home, and whose relatives desired to take charge of her. The Board decided that

* The precedent, though a good one, has not been well followed, for inclusive of this gift the total of the legacies and donations received to date is only £279 13s.

as the authorities of the Home, on the advice of the Catholic Bishop, refused to hand her over, she should be made a Ward of Court at the Board's expense. Unfortunately the child was moved out of the jurisdiction pending the application to the Court, and baptized. The proceedings were therefore doomed to failure. The Lady Superior of the Home then applied to the Court for her costs, but Mr. Justice Chitty refused her application.

The Board intervened on the exclusion of the Jews of Mogador from participating in a grant made by the Sultan (given on the suggestion of Sir J. Drummond Hay) for the poor of that city. The intervention was entirely successful.

On the Board's application Jewish Jurymen summoned to serve on the First Day of Tabernacles, were released from attendance on that day.

The arrangements with the Cambridge Local Examination Authorities of last year were extended and rendered satisfactory this year. Special papers were to be set in lieu of those set for a Saturday, the extra cost thereby occasioned to be collected by, and all arrangements and negotiations with the candidates to be conducted through the Board. This and the corresponding arrangements made later with Oxford threw a considerable amount of extra work each year on to the shoulders of the Board's Secretary.

1884] There was great fear that amendments introduced by the Lords in the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill of this year, whereby the importation of live animals would be restricted, would result in much hardship on the Jews, 90% of whose meat came from abroad. The Board petitioned the Government, agitated throughout the pro-

vinces, and obtained such support that the Government, while the Bill was in the Commons, gave notice of amendments which would restore it to its original form. They were, however, defeated in their Amendments, and were therefore reduced to a compromise which was accepted by the Opposition. Although the result of this would be to render the position of the Jews by no means free from danger, yet, seeing that the operation of the Act, as passed, depended on the exercise of certain powers by the Lord President of the Council, it was hoped that these powers would be so exercised as not to seriously affect the Community, and events proved that this hope was justified.

An attack on the Jews of Limerick was recorded and investigated. It was proved to have been dictated by motives of plunder rather than of prejudice. The offenders were punished.

A clause was prepared in protection of the Jews, as an amendment to a Bill introduced for the purpose of extending the provisions of the Factory Acts to shops. The Bill contained a provision that no young person should be employed in a shop on Sunday. The measure was dropped, and was subsequently reintroduced with the omission of the Sunday provision.

Application was made to the War Office that the dispensation granted at the Board's request, allowing Jewish soldiers to observe Passover, might (military exigencies permitting) be extended to the other Jewish Holy Days. The request was at once conceded.

A dispute in a provincial Congregation as to the custody of its books and funds was settled by the Board's friendly offices.

Permission was procured for the Visiting Com-

mittees of Manchester and Liverpool to visit Jewish inmates of the Lancashire and Cheshire prisons and convict establishments.

In his judgment in the case of *Jackson v. Harris*, Mr. Justice Kay made observations in which he fastened on to the Jews, as a race, the odium of usury. The Board forwarded to his Lordship a resolution by the Board deprecating the suggestion which he had made, as exceeding the legitimate bounds of criticism, and as irrelevant to the question which his Lordship had to decide.

In November, Sir Moses Montefiore attained the age of a hundred, and the Board was among the first to convey its congratulations to its Honorary Member.

Roumania had violated her engagements, to the great Powers to whom she owed her Independence, by depriving her Jews of civil and religious equality. Article 44 of the Treaty provided—

“In Roumania the difference of Religious Creeds and Confessions shall not be alleged against any person as a ground for exclusion or incapacity in matters relating to the enjoyment of civil and political rights, admission to public employment, functions, and honours, or the exercise of various professions and industries. . . . The subjects and citizens of all the Powers, traders and others, shall be treated in Roumania without distinction of creed on a footing of perfect equality.”

This Article was openly violated, the Jews were classified as aliens, and the Government now proceeded to more active persecution of these unfortunate people. A Law was passed making

hawking illegal. This was directly addressed against the Jews, for a large number of them had been reduced to this means of livelihood, and the Law deprived 20,000 of them of the means of subsistence. A petition was addressed to the Foreign Office, but without success, and it was obvious that a more auspicious occasion must be awaited before any active assistance from our Government could be hoped for.

1885] Through the barbarous conduct of the Governor of Demnat, in Morocco, the Jewish Community of that town was reduced to utter destitution. An Edict of the Sultan that the persecution must cease had no effect. The Board appealed to the Foreign Office, which immediately made representations that the persecutions must cease and the Governor be punished. A Kaid sent to investigate the affair was bribed off. Further barbarities followed, and the Board sent a fresh Memorial to the Foreign Office. The Representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, and the United States thereupon joined in a remonstrance, with such effect that compensation was given for all proved pecuniary losses, and the Jews were authorized to appoint a Communal Officer, who should be under the joint protection of England, France, and Italy.

Application was made to the Council of Education with regard to the Science and Art Department's Examination having been fixed for a Saturday, thus disqualifying Jewish Candidates. In view of difficulties experienced in obtaining the desired facilities, a Deputation waited on Mr. Mundella, and finally satisfactory arrangements were made.

The elevation of Sir Nathaniel Mayer de Roth-

schild to the Peerage was the occasion of an address of congratulation on behalf of the Constituent Synagogues.

In August the Board learnt with the deepest sorrow of the death of Sir Moses Montefiore who for some thirty years had been its honoured President, and had only retired when old age and ill-health prevented him from further active participation in its labours.

In October the report of the Committee appointed to consider the impediments which prevented the West London Synagogue sending Deputies to the Board was considered. Such report recommended revisions in the Constitution which should remove all existing difficulties. It was unanimously adopted.

Roumanian Law, in violation of the Treaty of Berlin, required individual Jews born in Roumania to apply for a special Act of Parliament to procure naturalization. As a result, by this year, only 67 of the 265,000 Roumanian Jews had succeeded in obtaining naturalization, and had incidentally acquired equal rights with their fellow-citizens. In August a fresh Deputation waited on the Foreign Office, asking for the interposition of the British Government, pointing out the violation of Article 44 of the Treaty conferring on Roumanian Jews complete civil and religious liberty. Lord Salisbury, in reply, referred to the prominent part taken by him personally in securing the insertion of Article 44, and stated that anything that was possible would be done by Her Majesty's Government, although considerable delicacy of treatment was necessary, as the Roumanian Government would be jealous of any interference on the part of a Foreign Power in its domestic policy. The Depu-

tation, in reply, suggested that the violation of the Treaty was not a matter of internal, but of international politics. No hopes of immediate British intervention were held out, and this being known four further laws against the Jews were passed, orders were issued to close most of their schools, and they were refused admission to the public schools. Many native-born Jews were expelled the country as strangers at twenty-four hours' notice.

Since the date of the Polling Act, which made provision for the marking of Jewish voting papers in the event of an election falling on a Saturday, the hours of Polling at General Elections had been extended from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. It was thought likely that the pending General Election would, in many districts, take place on a Friday, in which case the Jewish voters would have to vote before the commencement of the Sabbath, or not at all. Application was, therefore, made to the Crown Office in Chancery, on whose advice the Board communicated direct with the Returning Officers of all Jewish districts, asking them not to fix Friday for Election day. The application was completely successful.

In December arrangements were concluded with the Oxford Local Examination Authorities in favour of Jewish Candidates, similar to those made at Cambridge.

1886] At the Triennial election held this year the West London Synagogue, for the first time, returned Deputies, the gentlemen elected being Sir Julian Goldsmid, M.P., and Sir Philip Magnus. The total number of Deputies elected was 29 for 15 Metropolitan and 19 for 18 Provincial Synagogues.

Continued attacks on Jews at Fez led to an application to the Foreign Office, which sent out instructions to the local British Representative to act with the other European representatives in pressing for compensation.

Difficulties at Demnat with regard to the claims by the injured, and for loss of property, were settled through the intermediation of Sir John Drummond Hay.

There was a likelihood of overlapping action by the United Synagogue and the Board with regard to impending Reformatory Legislation, the United Synagogue being of opinion that the arrangement made in 1872 that no action should be taken by either body without first conferring with the other, was a temporary one, and was no longer in force. As the result of negotiations, an admission was obtained that the Board was entitled to take action whenever legislation likely to affect the Jews was contemplated, and this satisfied the Board.

Application made to the Governors of St. Paul's School to allow the Jewish pupils to leave at sunset on Fridays and Holy Days was refused.

Sir John Lubbock's Shop Hours Regulation Bill of the previous Session, containing a clause increasing the penalty for violation of the Lord's Day Act from 5s. to £1, was reintroduced. It was carefully watched, but failed to become law.

1887] The Board co-operated with the Anglo-Jewish Association in a loyal address to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Jubilee.

The Board framed a clause exempting Jews from the Marriages (Attendance of Registrar) Bill, which was accepted by the Government.

But for this, the established right of Jews to marry without the presence of the District Registrar would have been jeopardized.

The Foreign Office intervened to obtain the release of a Tangier Jew who had been wrongfully imprisoned.

The King's Lynn Disused Cemetery was put into repair at the expense of the Board.

1888] A Jewish boy of Leeds having been sent to a Christian Industrial School for three and a half years for playing truant, he was, on the Board's application, let out on license under Jewish supervision.

The solemnization of Marriages in a Manchester Synagogue, which was not under the jurisdiction of the Jewish Ecclesiastical Authorities and had no Marriage Secretary authorized to certify marriages, engaged the attention of the Law and Parliamentary Committee. In reporting that such marriages were not marriages according to Jewish usages, the Committee commented on the fact that there was no penalty which could be imposed on any person solemnizing a Jewish marriage without civil sanction, and advised that the Board should endeavour to get such a penalty imposed by means of a clause in some future Marriage Act.

In view of the approaching Conference at Madrid, the Board presented to the Foreign Office a long Memorial as to the oppressed condition of the 300,000 Jews of Morocco, and suggested the terms of a Treaty by which their disabilities should be removed. The Memorial contained a list of no less than twenty-seven distinct disabilities, most of them of a serious nature, from which the Jews suffered.

The Solicitor and Secretary prepared for the Board, in view of a clause in Sir John Lubbock's

reintroduced Bill of this year providing for Sunday Closing, a careful memorial on the effect of the Sunday Observance Act (Charles II, Cap. 7), and the Act 6 and 7 Will. IV, Cap. 3 on the Jews. The former Act imposed a small penalty for Sunday trading, and the latter penalized the baking of bread on that day, and its sale and delivery, except in the earlier hours of such day. The Board approved a proposed amendment to the Bill to the effect, that no penalty should be imposed where the offender was a Jew who kept his premises closed throughout the Sabbath, and made no public display of business on the Sunday. The Bill was thrown out by a large majority on second reading in the House of Commons.

The Board approached the Home Secretary as to introducing a clause in his contemplated Reformatories Bill, *inter alia* making generally applicable the special relaxations in favour of Jewish inmates allowed by the Authorities of the Netherton School (i.e. visitation by a Jewish minister, and relief from attendance at Christian Religious worship). The Home Secretary promised that he would arrange for this in the Rules provided for in his Bill. There were at that time several Jewish boys confined in Christian Industrial Schools without facilities for observing their religion.

A remonstrance through the Foreign Office as to restrictions placed by an Order of the Porte on the residence of foreign Jews of the industrial class in the Holy Land, led to the Porte revising its order, so that it only applied in case of the arrival of large numbers of foreign persons.

The relations of a Jew buried in a non-Jewish Burial-ground were assisted to obtain his exhumation and re-burial.

1889] At the Triennial Election 29 Deputies were appointed for 15 Metropolitan Synagogues, and 19 for 19 Provincial Synagogues.

Fresh complaints as to irregular marriages led to the preparation of a short Bill, the effect of which would be to declare it a felony for a person to solemnize a marriage between Jewish persons, except in the presence of the Secretary of a Synagogue authorized to register such a marriage, or some other officer of the Synagogue appointed under his hand.

Application was successfully made to the Oxford Local Examination Authorities to allow Jewish Candidates to take papers in Old Testament, in lieu of those set in the New Testament for other Candidates. Successful applications on behalf of Jewish Candidates were also made to the Authorities of the College of Preceptors, whose examination commenced on the Eve of Pentecost, and to the controlling Body of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination, whose examination was fixed for Saturday.

Arrangements were concluded whereby the Mile End Industrial School agreed to receive Jewish girls, and to allow them to have facilities for the observance of their religion. The Solicitor and Secretary also succeeded in making arrangements with the Lewisham Industrial School, whereby Jewish boys committed to them should be withdrawn from Christian worship, and allowed instruction in their own faith, and access to a Synagogue on Sabbaths and festivals. Their dietary laws were to be observed, and their interests were to be looked after by a Jewish Manager.

In the course of the review of the Constitution this year, negotiations between Mr. D. L. Alexander

(on behalf of the Delegates who framed the new Constitution) and Mr. Henry Lucas (representing the United Synagogue) led to the insertion of a provision that the assessment on Synagogues which were constituents of the United Synagogue should be limited to £9* for each Deputy returned.

In consequence of a conviction obtained against a Jewish occupier of a factory, the Board intervened with the Chief Inspector of Factories, and obtained from him an understanding that he would not in future direct a prosecution against a Jew who opened for work on Sundays, for opening his factory on Saturday evenings for the purpose of giving out work in cases where the Saturday immediately followed a Jewish Festival.

The murder of a Jew at Shiraz led to an application to the Foreign Office, and its prompt intervention resulted in the murderer being punished and the deceased's family compensated.

The Jews of Saffi complained to the Board of ill-treatment at the hands of a relative of the Governor. A communication was addressed to the Foreign Office which directed Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier to demand the punishment of the offender and the award of compensation to the sufferer. These demands were complied with.

1890] The Jews of Persia suffered at the hands of the Vali of Bagdad, the successor of a former persecutor. He charged twelve of them (including their Ecclesiastical Chiefs) with having buried a Rabbi in a Mohammedan shrine, and condemned

* Owing to the economical management of the Board the assessment has only averaged about £6/15⁰ per annum,

them each to a year's imprisonment and a fine. The facts as to the shrine were that it was so little a Mohammedan place of worship that from time immemorial it had been maintained by the contributions of the Jews, it had a Jewish door-keeper, and it was used by the Jews as a Synagogue, the walls being covered with Hebrew inscriptions. The Foreign Office was asked to intervene to settle the dispute, and did so with signal success.

In July the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examination Board greatly reduced the fees to Jewish candidates for the special papers they should require, in lieu of those set for the Sabbath. Mr. Ellis A. Franklin * generously undertook to assist deserving poor students who could not afford these fees.

The Board, in conjunction with the Anglo-Jewish Association, on the 25th Anniversary of Cardinal Manning's Episcopal Consecration, presented an illuminated address to His Eminence, in view of his signal services on behalf of the persecuted Jews of Russia.

The persecution of the Jews of Russia had reached such a pitch, and their condition was so precarious, that they led to the celebrated and historical Public Meeting at the Guildhall, at which the Lord Mayor presided. The meeting, which was crowded with sympathizers of all creeds and of all ranks, denounced the persecutions of the Jews as a scandal to Christianity. A memorial was adopted, which was forwarded by the meeting to the Czar, begging him to intervene and put an end to the persecutions, but he refused to receive it. Thousands of honest and industrious Jews were driven in chains from Moscow and other

* Since his death his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Arthur Franklin, has continued this charitable work.

cities to the Pale of Scutari. The British Government found itself unable to intervene in "a matter of domestic legislation." It kept itself, however, in direct touch with the tendency of the restrictive legislation through its representative at Odessa, and the reports it received showed that all those who could, were fleeing the country, and the stream so started, in greater or less strength has never since ceased to flow. As the Mansion House Fund collected for the relief of the poor persecuted Jews rapidly approached exhaustion, the Board co-operated in the collection of a fresh fund. A Central Committee was formed, and the Board undertook to collect through the various Synagogues of the British Empire. Some £23,000 was so collected from the British and Colonial Synagogues alone.

A long dispatch was sent to the Foreign Office with reference to a recommendation which was published in the Official Gazette that, in view of the difficulties experienced by travellers owing to the regulations in force as regards Jewish foreigners, British travellers in Russia should carry with them a copy of their baptismal certificate, in proof of their religion. The publication of this notice, creating as it did an obvious impression that the British Government acknowledged the right of Russia to withhold from British Jews visiting Russia the rights, which were possessed by other British subjects, was viewed with great concern. The question of the interpretation of the wording of the debateable clause in the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation (1859) was again raised, and Her Majesty's Government was urged to insist that the principle of equal rights to foreigners of all creeds should be upheld. Lord Salisbury, however, was of opinion that the advice of the Law

Officers of the Crown as to the construction of the words in question obtained in 1862 and 1881 had bound the hands of the Government, and that the question could not be reopened.

Kaid Azad El Meubhee expelled the Jewish population of Imentanout (Morocco), and despoiled them of their property. At the intervention of the Conjoint Foreign Committee, exercised through the Foreign Office, the Sultan saw justice done to the Jews.

1891] The Board had to advise the Chief Rabbi as to whether, after a marriage solemnized *more Judaico* only in Russia, followed by a Jewish Divorce in the United States, one of the parties could re-marry in England. It was held, with the concurrence of the Registrar-General, that the original marriage was invalid, and that there was no impediment, therefore, to the proposed ceremony.

The Registrar-General asked the Board to assist him in securing reliable Census returns from the foreign population of the country who were likely to be alarmed at receiving the Census paper. The Board consented, and circulated a printed document explaining the nature of the Census, and calling upon the foreign Jews to do their best to give the correct particulars. These documents were signed on behalf of the Board and posted up at the Synagogues. ¶

A Factory Bill (Mr. Buxton's), which proposed to extend the Factory Acts to domestic workshops, incorporated, in favour of the Jews, the provisions of Section 50 of the Factory and Workshops Act, but omitted Clause 51. The Board brought this to the notice of the Home Secretary, who promised that the privileges granted by the Act of 1878 should not be infringed.

The Board expressed to the Sponsors of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill the approval of the Jews to that measure.

The Council of Education was asked by the Board to considerably reduce the fees required from Jewish Candidates for the special papers set this year in lieu of those set for the Sabbath and the 7th day of Passover, and the concession was gracefully made.

A renewal of the blood accusation in Corfu and Crete, led to an outbreak of such magnitude that the British Consul-General at Corfu applied for British warships to be sent to restore order; the granting of his application resulted in tranquillity being restored. The Conjoint Committee was in touch with the Foreign Office throughout the disturbance.

The murder of two young brothers (Jews) near Mogador was the subject of an appeal for the assistance of the Foreign Office. The instructions sent out resulted in the Sultan ordering the arrest of the murderers, and provision for payment of compensation to the family of the murdered men.

1892] At the Triennial Election held this year 32 Deputies were elected by 17 Metropolitan, and 21 by 21 Provincial Synagogues.

The question of legislation to prevent irregular Jewish marriages again occupied the Board. The form of Bill adopted in 1889 was reaffirmed, subject to the qualification that legislation should not be initiated unless Sir Julian Goldsmid, M.P., and Mr. Samuel Montagu, M.P. (who would certainly, as leading Jewish Members of Parliament, be consulted by the Government), were in favour of the measure. Sir Julian having refused to introduce

the Bill, and Mr. Montagu having raised strong objections to its provisions, the measure had to be dropped.

Steps were taken by the Conjoint Committee to obtain the good offices of Her Majesty's Government in bringing pressure to bear on the Sultan of Morocco to give facilities for the extension of the Jewish Quarter at Mogador, the confused and overerowed character of which had led to a large amount of disease and mortality. The services of Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier were offered for that purpose.

A pamphlet issued under the imprimatur of the local Roman Catholic Archbishop and publicly sold at Malta, charged the Jews with Ritual murder for the purpose of using the blood of Christians in the manufacture of Passover cakes and for other purposes. The pamphlet urged the Christians, therefore, to keep close guard over their children. The Jews in the island numbered 120 only among a Christian population of 177,000, and feared that the publication would be followed by their massacre. The Board sent a Memorial to the Foreign Office, and Lord Ripon at once telegraphed instructions to the Governor of Malta to give every protection to the Jews. Application was also made to the Archbishop of Westminster to use his influence with the Archbishop of Malta to procure the withdrawal of the infamous publication, and very shortly His Grace was able to inform them that the work had been withdrawn.

A telegram received in September from Bagdad informed the Board that the Spiritual Chief, Mollah Abdulla, had ordered a massacre and pillage of the Jews of Hamadan, and the message begged for British intervention. The Conjoint

Committee at once made representations to the Foreign Office, and Lord Rosebery telegraphed out instructions for the British representative at Teheran to take steps to avert the outrage. Stringent orders were circulated by the Governor of the district that the Jews were not to be disturbed under penalty of severe punishment, and troops were ordered to the town to preserve order.

Grave fears were entertained that a Federal Draft Bill, prohibiting the Jewish method of slaughtering animals for food, would become law in Switzerland. The danger was notified to Lord Ripon by Lord Rosebery, and the information was passed on to the Board. It was felt that for such an Act to become law in one country, might be an incentive to other countries to follow suit, in spite of the fact that scientists and humanitarians had declared the Jewish method to be the least cruel and the most effective. Copies of an article to that effect published in the *British Medical Journal* were circulated in Switzerland. The Board was kept in touch with the agitation by Lord Rosebery. Ultimately the measure was rejected in the National Council by a narrow majority.

The Board, in conjunction with the Anglo-Jewish Association, seized the occasion of the visit to this country of the King of Roumania to petition him to accord relief to his Jewish subjects from their degraded and illegal position, and to accord to them the rights intended to be secured to them by the Treaty of Berlin. The receipt of the petition was not acknowledged.

Mr. Nathaniel Louis Cohen instituted English Evening Classes for the instruction of adult Russo-Jewish refugees in London, and asked for the

co-operation of the Board in extending the movement to the provinces. The Board assented, recognizing the value of the movement and its aid to assimilation, and published throughout the provinces suggestions for the establishment of similar classes. Its advice was followed in many districts.

1893] The Board opened a fund to enable it to maintain the various Disused Jewish Cemeteries, and although the number and amount of the subscriptions were very small, it was just possible with strict economy to cover the expenses, and the Board accordingly undertook the trust. Arrangements were made for the honorary superintendence of the grounds, and paid caretakers were appointed.

A Bill providing for the enfranchisement of leasehold places of worship contained such a definition of the term "places of Worship" as to imply the exclusion of Synagogues. Accordingly the Board framed an amendment which was approved by the Sponsors of the Bill. Mr. S. Montagu, M.P., took charge of the Amendment in the House of Commons. The Bill failed to become law.

The Foreign Office having advised the Conjoint Committee that it would be a safety for the Jews of Persia to wear a distinctive dress in view of the special protection promised them by the Shah, the Committee strongly dissented, and pointed to the experience of the Jews in Morocco and elsewhere.

Examination concessions in favour of Jewish Candidates were successfully applied for in connection with the Glasgow Bursaries.

Further attacks were made on the Jews of Hamadan, who fared as badly under the new Governor as under the old. Representations made to the Foreign Office resulted in further assurances being given as to the future safety of the Jews.

The position of the Jews of Roumania was always becoming more intolerable. In May a law was introduced which threatened to exclude Jews from the Public Elementary Schools to which they were compelled to contribute. Article 23 of the Constitution had provided that free education should be given to all children. A long memorial was addressed to the Foreign Office on the subject of its new law, and particularly as to the continued violation by Roumania of her engagements as to civil and religious equality for the Jews. In reply the Foreign Office sent to the Committee a dispatch from Sir John Walsham, Her Majesty's Minister at Bucharest, the statements in which clearly showed that he had been misled and misinformed. Each clause of his letter was carefully dealt with and replied to by the Committee, and in their answer each of the galling restrictions on the Jews was dealt with in detail.

The Board intervened to settle internal questions connected with the Portsea Synagogue. Advice and assistance was given to the South Shields and Sunderland Community to obtain sites for Jewish burial-grounds.

The ill-treatment of the Jews of Morocco City by the Governor, led to the Board co-operating in a successful appeal to the Foreign Office to make the necessary representations.

Mr. S. Montagu undertook to proceed on a mission

to Morocco, and to take all possible steps to have the Governor removed.

1894] Opposition raised by the Foreign Office (at the request of the Conjoint Foreign Committee) to the return of Mullah Abdullah, a persecutor of the Jews, to Hamadan, was, with the Committee's approval, withdrawn on the Mullah giving bonds for good behaviour to the local Rabbi.

A number of Bills likely to affect the Jews were submitted to the Law and Parliamentary Committee which closely watched them. A clause in the Finance Bill making Estate Duty payable on the death of a Minister in respect of his use of the Minister's house, was the subject of an amendment by the Board. Mr. Byrne, Q.C., M.P., took charge of it, and the principle which it contained was accepted by the Government.

It had not been found possible to get the Governor of Morocco City removed and his brutalities increased, necessitating further intervention by the British Government.

The Board interested itself in the Places of Worship Bill, which became law (57 & 58 Vic. Cap. 35). It extended exemption from rates and taxes to certain buildings owned in connection with places of worship. The Board circulated notices as to the necessary steps to be taken to obtain the exemption.

Arrangements were made with the authorities of Queen's College, Cork, by which a Jewish candidate for a Scholarship could have alternative papers to those set for the Sabbath.

The Board decided to take charge of and safeguard the duplicate Marriage Registers of all Synagogues which ceased to exist.

1895] At the Triennial Election held this year 29 Deputies were elected by 16 Metropolitan, and 18 by 18 Provincial Synagogues.

An amendment was framed to the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill of this year, which proposed to permit a marriage with a deceased Wife's sister, but which excepted, by implication, such marriages as were performed in the presence of a Jewish Marriage Secretary.

Objection was raised to a clause in the Factory and Workshop Bill of this year, which would have been open to the construction that the Jewish clauses in the principal Factory Act were no longer to be operative. The Government accepted the amendment, and the Act as passed preserved the Jewish privileges.

The heavy expense of special papers at the Science and Art Examinations had been a great grievance among Jewish candidates, and the Board successfully negotiated a new system by which the candidates were only to be charged with the cost of extra supervision consequent on their being examined after instead of during the Sabbath.

Mr. Joseph Sebag-Montefiore, President] In October Mr. Arthur Cohen resigned the Presidentship and Mr. Joseph Sebag-Montefiore was elected in his place. Shortly afterwards Mr. Sebag-Montefiore was knighted.

Threats by the Anti-Parnellites in Cork against Jews who should vote against their party threw the Jewish population into great alarm, and they reported their intention of not going to the Poll on Election day. The Board strongly advised them to call upon the police authorities for protection and to vote. They followed this advice, and the threatened attack was abandoned.

The Superintendent Inspector of Factories complained of violations of the Factory Acts by Jewish occupiers of factories, most of whom were foreigners. With the approval of the Factory Office, the Board prepared a circular showing the advantages offered to Jews by the Factory Acts, and the necessity of strictly observing their requirements. It was printed in English, German, and Yiddish at the Board's expense, and was circulated by the Factory Office among the persons in question.

On the Board's representations a special examination was set for Jewish pupil teachers by the Education Department on a Friday, in lieu of the general Examination which was fixed for the Saturday.

1896] The Board applied to the Registrar-General to make arrangements so that Jews need not sign the Census papers, required for the purposes of the Equalization of Rates, on the specified day, which happened to be one of the sacred days of Passover. The Registrar-General accordingly postponed for one day the collection of the census papers of Jews.

In February we find the first notice in the Minutes of Anti-Alien legislation, a Bill with respect to the immigration of destitute aliens being referred to the Law and Parliamentary Committee.

The Board learnt with deep regret that the Managers of the Lewisham Industrial School had given notice terminating the arrangement which had been concluded with them several years ago for the reception and grouping of Jewish boys committed to Industrial Schools.

Arrangements were negotiated with Trinity College, London, in favour of Jewish candidates, who otherwise would have been prejudiced by the examinations being arranged for a Saturday.

The Foreign Office forwarded to the Board a report, showing the terribly overcrowded condition of the Mellah or Jewish Quarter at Mogador, with suggestions for the extension of its area. The Board begged the Foreign Secretary to authorize the British representative to take the steps he suggested, and this was done. The extension, however, was hampered by the Jews themselves, who owned the adjoining ground.

An irregular marriage at Gateshead (the woman having been previously married and then divorced according to Jewish law only) was notified to the Board, which warned the parties of the dangers. A circular pointing out the defects and consequences of these irregular marriages was prepared, printed in English and Yiddish, and sent to every Synagogue and Chevra, with a request that it be posted up.

The Board intervened also in the case of an irregular marriage at Sunderland, notified by the Registrar-General.

An address of condolence and congratulation to the new Shah of Persia on the murder of his father, brought an acknowledgment, in which the Shah promised protection to his Jewish subjects.

A Jewish button-hole machinist was convicted for employing a woman on Sunday, and fined. He appealed to the Board for assistance in further fighting the case, owing to the principle involved. The person employed was a Jewess. Section 51 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1878, permits such employment, provided the workshop "is not open for traffic" on the Sunday. The woman

in question brought to the workshop work to be done for certain master tailors. No payment for the work was made that day, and the workshop was only open so that customers who had previously made arrangements for work to be done by the button-holer might leave it there to be completed. An adverse decision would affect a large number of Jewish employers. The Board decided to assist the man to appeal, furnished his Solicitor with the necessary data, and provided him with Counsel to argue the case on appeal. The appeal was successful, and the conviction was quashed. Previously, in 1890, the Home Secretary had obtained an opinion of the law officers of the Crown that such a trading *did* constitute a workshop "open for traffic," so the victory was all the greater.

The Board successfully intervened in the case of a Yarmouth magistrate who, having no Old Testament at hand on which to swear a prosecutor, and on his refusing to be sworn on a Bible containing the New Testament, ordered the case to be struck out.

The Council of the Royal University of Ireland consented to make arrangements to prevent Jewish candidates being prejudiced by their examinations being set for the Sabbath.

1897] The Board joined with the Anglo-Jewish Association in the presentation of an illuminated address to Her Majesty on the 60th anniversary of her accession to the throne. It was received by Her Majesty in person at the hands of a small but influential Deputation.

The Board assisted the Registrar-General to obtain possession of a Marriage Register which was improperly retained.

A Jewish boy had been committed by a Magistrate to the Church of England Home for Waifs and Strays, as he was too young for an Industrial School. Subsequently he was baptized, and efforts made to bring him again under Jewish influences were abortive. The Board was asked to intervene, and procured the boy's release on condition that a Jewish home was found for him. This was done.

The mother of two Jewish girls applied to the Board under the following circumstances. Her husband, a professional "strong man," finding it inconvenient to take his children with him on tour, handed them to a Roman Catholic woman to be cared for. As the money for the children's keep was in arrear, the woman placed them in a Convent, whence they were transferred to St. Martha's Industrial School. The Board applied to the Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Balfour), either for their release into the mother's care, or that they should be brought up in her faith. After a long investigation the children were handed back to the mother.

Messrs. Hutchinson advertised the publication of a posthumous work by Sir Richard Burton, entitled *Human Sacrifice among the Sephardin or Eastern Jews*. The table of contents published in advance showed that the work was intended to revive the fable of Ritual murder, and it was learnt that it was intended to translate the book into foreign languages for circulation abroad. The Board took legal advice, and threatened the Publishers and Editor with libel proceedings if the work appeared. The Rabbis of all the principal foreign centres were warned of the book, and were advised to take steps locally to prevent publication. Finally, as a result of the steps taken by the Board,

the book appeared with the obnoxious chapters omitted.

At Mr. D. L. Alexander's request (as Vice-President of the Board) the Vacation Judge postponed his sitting from the Day of Atonement so as to avoid hardship to Jewish Counsel and suitors.

The Marriage Secretary of a provincial Synagogue, who through insufficient inquiries had enabled a marriage between an uncle and niece to be registered in his books, was severely reprimanded.

The Board was deeply grieved to learn this year of the death of Sir John Simon, who had throughout his long Parliamentary career been the staunchest upholder in the House of Commons of the Rights of the Jews.

The case of a German subject naturalized in England, who on his return to Germany was ordered to leave, was remitted to the Board for advice. It was obliged to advise that the question of naturalization gave no British protection in the applicant's original country of domicile, and that by his return to Germany he had voluntarily re-submitted himself to German law.

Special arrangements were made, at the Board's request, by the Committee controlling the Stockton Exhibition Scholarship, to enable a Jewish candidate to compete without working on the Sabbath.

The Foreign Office informed the Conjoint Committee of steps taken by the British Representative at Ispahan to put an end to the persecution of Jews in that city. The Grand Vizier had published orders that the persecution should cease at once.

1898] At the Triennial Election held this year 30 Deputies were elected by 17 Metropolitan, 24 by 23 Provincial, and 1 by a Colonial Synagogue.

Griqualand West was the first Colonial synagogue to be represented at the Board.

An outbreak at Teheran (incited by means of notices inviting the inhabitants to massacre the Jews) was happily avoided owing to the prompt intervention of Mr. Hardinge, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at that city, who secured the direct intervention of the Shah.

Up to this date, the Administration of the Morocco Relief Fund had remained in the hands of a special Council nominated by the Board, but at this period the Council was spending more than the income of the Fund. On the recommendation of the Council, the Board took over the administration, thus saving to the Fund the amount of the salary previously paid for secretarial assistance. At this date the Fund maintained an English School at Mogador, and maintained an English master at a French School at Tangier, making grants also to girls' schools at Tetuan and Mogador.

The Board this year lost by death the services of its Solicitor and Secretary, Mr. Lewis Emanuel. His son, Mr. Charles H. L. Emanuel, who for five years had acted as Assistant-Secretary, unpaid, was appointed to the vacant office.

Further facilities were offered at the Science and Art Department Examinations by which Jewish Candidates could avoid the expense of alternative papers to those set on the Sabbath.

It was doubtful whether the Nonconformist Marriages Bill, as introduced this year, would actually affect Jewish marriages, but as the Quakers brought forward an amendment conserving their rights to marry as heretofore, the Board was obliged to bring forward an amendment, the Law and Parliamentary Committee advising that it would

be injurious not to do so. Mr. B. L. Cohen, M.P., introduced the amendment, and it was incorporated in the Bill as passed.

In June the Board appointed an Alien Immigration Committee to collect statistics and information on the Alien Question.

The Board furnished the Hull Sanitary Authority, by request, with copies of its Factory notice, for which there was a local demand on the part of Jewish factory owners.

Several complaints had been received that, owing to the early closing on Friday of the office of local Registrars of Deaths, it was often found impossible for Jews to bury their dead on the Sunday without desecrating the Sabbath by attending the office and signing the Register on the previous Saturday. The Solicitor and Secretary, however, advised that the law required the Registrar to issue his certificate in time for a Sunday burial, if written notice and a medical certificate were sent to him on the Friday, and the Registrar-General confirmed this view. Notice as to this method of escaping the difficulty was circulated among the Synagogues.

Special arrangements for Jewish candidates were made at the Board's request at the London Matriculation to avoid the difficulty arising from papers being set for the Sabbath.

1899] Grave complaints reached the Board as to the nature of the interpretation at the Whitechapel County Court, the charge being that wholly unreliable persons offered their services as interpreters, and being paid by result distorted the evidence to suit their client's case. Moreover, for the purpose of increasing their business,

they incited and encouraged litigation. The result was seen in frequent complaints on the part of the Judge as to Jewish litigation and litigants. Judge Bacon was interviewed, and both he and his Registrar were strongly in favour of the appointment of an official interpreter, to be appointed and accredited by the Board. Application was made to the Russo-Jewish Committee for funds, for it was obvious that such an interpreter must be adequately remunerated, so as to be independent of the suitors' fees for his services. The Committee promised £100 for one year, and members and friends of the Board agreed to contribute the balance of £50. The post was advertised, and out of a large number of candidates the Board selected Mr. Rehfish. Judge Bacon published notice that no other interpreter would be heard in his courts. It is noteworthy that within six months after Mr. Rehfish had taken up his post the number of foreign Jews applying to be heard through an interpreter at the Whitechapel court decreased by 50%, and that while previous to his appointment some four or five "interpreters" were getting a living out of the Court, the first year's fees received after his appointment were but £14, and adverse comments from the Bench as to Jewish litigation entirely ceased.

Returns were collected by the Alien Immigration Committee from the various Jewish Boards of Guardians throughout the United Kingdom of relief afforded to alien Jews, and instructions were given that they should be re-collected each year, and published in the Board's Annual Report.

∴ The Board of Trade statistics of Emigration and Immigration were dissected, and information

was given to such Board of a subterfuge required by certain of the Shipping Companies to avoid the effect of an International shipping convention, which rendered a portion of the official statistics entirely unreliable. As a result of this discovery it was found that a large number of alien arrivals who were entered in the statistics as settlers were actually *en route* only. Detailed statistics published by the Board showed that the average annual increase in the foreign population of the United Kingdom between the years 1894 and 1898 was only 2600 per annum, as compared with the annual figure of 30,000 which had been published by Sir Howard Vincent, M.P.

The Board made representations to the Registrar-General, accompanied by an exposition on the Marriage Laws as affecting the Jews, which resulted in the Registrar-General refusing to sanction the registration of a London Synagogue for marriage purposes. The application of the Synagogue had been made for the purpose of enabling it to appoint and certify its own Marriage Secretary. Had the application been successful, it would have withdrawn the marriages solemnized in the building from the wholesome control exercised by the Board over such matters, and as the Synagogue in question had previously refused to acknowledge the Chief Rabbi's spiritual jurisdiction, there was ample reason to believe that irregular marriages would be contracted and divorces granted by its officials.

A similar application made by an Irish Synagogue was likewise refused on the Board's application, and the right of Jewish Synagogues to register their buildings for marriages and to appoint their own Marriage Secretaries was definitely disproved.

*The City and Guilds of London Institute made

special arrangements for Jewish candidates at their examinations, on the Board's representations.

Questions put before the Law and Parliamentary Committee as to whether a Jewish marriage could be solemnized (*a*) in a public hall, (*b*) in a Synagogue not certified to be such by the Chief Rabbi, were decided by the Board in the affirmative.

The Board went to very great trouble in the case of a poor Russian Jew—a tailor—who had been persuaded by a shipping agent at New York to enlist as a cattle tender on board one of the ships of the Atlantic Transport Line, under false representations that at the expense of a few dollars and a little light labour he could get a cheap passage. During the voyage he was enticed into the engine-room, and there robbed of all his savings and wounded by some of the crew. He was unable to get his complaints investigated by the officers, and being further ill-treated and imprisoned as a madman, he jumped overboard and was drowned. The Company offered no assistance in obtaining the punishment of the offenders, and an application for a Board of Trade inquiry failed on the legal ground that a so-called inquiry had already been held on the ship's arrival, and that there was no power, although at such inquiry the deceased was unrepresented, to have a further investigation. A body, with the hands handcuffed, drifted ashore, and was undoubtedly that of the poor cattle tender. The Solicitor and Secretary and Mr. H. S. Q. Henriques attended the inquest at Sheerness, but the body had been already buried before the inquest was summoned, there was no one in this country able to positively identify the deceased, and an open verdict was returned. The effect of the Board's remonstrances to the Board of

Trade, and of its representations to the United States Authorities as to the method of enlistment of untrained persons of feeble physique in the capacity of cattle tenders, resulted in assurances being given that such occurrences would be made impossible in the future.

1900.] In view of the frequent occurrence of irregular marriages solemnized among foreign Jews resident in England, who were unaware of the laws governing marriages in this country, the Board issued and widely circulated a poster in Yiddish and English, giving the requirements of a valid marriage and warning all of the evils resulting from an irregular union.

The Factory notice issued in 1896 being now out of date, a fresh one, informing Jewish occupiers of factories and workshops of the provisions in their favour obtained by the Board in 1878, and warning them against certain violations of the Factory Act which were prevalent and punishable, was issued with the approval of the Chief Inspector of Factories, and about 4000 copies, in English and Yiddish, were circulated.

In dealing with Marriage and Divorce questions, in cases in which the parties were foreigners, the Board had often found itself at a loss, owing to the subtle distinctions between the laws as to these ceremonies in Russia and Poland. The opinion, therefore, of a capable Russian lawyer in St. Petersburg was obtained by the Board, on all points likely to arise in this country in connection with such matters. His opinion has been of much use to the Board, and has on several occasions been utilized in the Courts of law.

Evidence from Jewish and non-Jewish employers and employees as to the effect of aliens on the introduction and working of new industries, and on the recapture of those which had been lost to this country, was obtained and stored up for future use, and the year's statistics as to foreign pauperism, immigration and emigration, etc., were compiled and published.

On the Board's intervention, exemption from work on the Sabbath and leave to receive religious instruction from a Jewish Minister, was granted in the case of a Jewish boy who had been committed to the Middlesbrough Industrial School for being found wandering without proper guardianship.

An application was successfully made by the President to the Vacation Judge to obviate the necessity of Jews attending Court on the Day of Atonement. The concession was particularly valuable, as that day had previously been fixed for making absolute *Decrees nisi* in Divorce.

An application to the Admiralty to permit Jews to have facilities for the observance of the Sabbaths and Holy Days, brought the reply that orders had been given that, as far as possible, they should be given facilities for the practice of their religion.

The Yorkshire Training College, at the Board's request, made special arrangements for Jewish candidates in respect of an Examination fixed for the Day of Atonement.

A circular was addressed to all the Returning Officers in districts in which there was likely to be a large number of Jewish voters, asking that as the Day of Atonement was one of the dates fixed for Polling at the General Election, such day should be avoided and one of the other alternative days elected. In a number of cases they consented. In

the rest there were good reasons why the selection of some other day was impossible.

1901] At the Triennial Election held this year, 31 Deputies were elected by 18 Metropolitan, 32 by 31 Provincial, and 2 by Colonial Synagogues.

The Board removed from Dr. Barnardo's Home a Jewish lad whose father could not be traced, and whose mother was not in circumstances to support him. The expense of the lad's maintenance fell on the Board's slender funds.

At the request of the Registrar-General, the Board assisted in the preparation and translation into Yiddish of a circular giving precise instructions as to the nature of the Census paper, and how it should be filled in. Such circular was widely distributed in the East End of London.

Complaint was made to the Board of Trade that the collection of statistics as to alien immigrants at the Port of London, which necessitated the interrogation of the foreigners, had been placed in the hands of a deputy Customs officer who only understood English. The oversight was thereupon corrected. The Board also protested against the publication of certain exaggerated statistics as to aliens which were admittedly unreliable.

The question of foreigners who passed through England and thence sailed to America, and who, on being there rejected, were returned to England instead of to their original port of departure, was the subject of an investigation by the Alien Immigration Committee, who reported that the United States officials were thereby complying with their own Immigration laws. A full report as to alien pauperism, and figures showing the influx and efflux of foreigners, was published by the Board.

The Hull Corporation promoted a Bill which contained provisions for the compulsory acquisition of a considerable piece of the Jewish Burial-ground, which included the mortuary and entrance lodge, and the disturbance of over one hundred graves. The Board prepared a petition against the Bill and lodged the same. Evidence was collected and funds provided to fight the Bill. The promoters thereupon came to satisfactory terms with the Congregation, and it was finally arranged that they should take 10 feet only of the frontage of the ground. The Petition was thereupon withdrawn.

On the death of Queen Victoria the Board joined with the Anglo-Jewish Association in presenting, by deputation to His Majesty King Edward VII, an address of condolence and of congratulation.

The Board successfully petitioned the Home Office to order the removal of a Jewish lad, who had been committed to a Roman Catholic Industrial School, to the new Jewish Industrial School at Hayes. The parents had previously been unsuccessful in their efforts.

A clause to prevent the imposition of a religious test on children seeking admission to Elementary Schools was prepared for insertion in the Education Bill of this year, but the measure was subsequently withdrawn in favour of a short and unobnoxious Act.

An Early Closing Bill was introduced this year, and Sir Samuel Montagu gave evidence before the House of Lords' Committee, to which the Bill was referred, in favour of a clause absolving from the penalty for Sunday trading any Jew who kept his shop closed on the Sabbath. The Bill was rejected.

A Deputation from the Jewish Master Bakers

waited on the Law and Parliamentary Committee with regard to the prosecution of their members by an informer employed by the Christian Master Bakers, for baking and delivering bread on a Sunday. On the refusal of Mr. Bros, the magistrate, to issue a summons for Sunday baking, the informer took the case to the Divisional Court. Mr. H. S. Q. Henriques, at the request of the Committee, consented to act as Counsel for the Jewish Bakers, and was completely victorious. In another case in which the magistrate inflicted a nominal penalty only, and the informer appealed, Mr. Henriques was likewise successful. A test case was then brought to decide whether the Sunday Observance Prosecution Act of 1871, which required certain consents to be obtained before the issuing of a summons for offences against the Lord's Day Observance Act, did not apply to Sunday Baking (which was prohibited under another Act). The decision, however, was unfavourable.

Under the regulations instituted by the Board of Trade as to Inquiries, as a result of the Board's protests in the previous cattle-tender's case, notice was given to the Board of the disappearance of another foreign Jewish cattle-tender from one of the same Company's ships. The Solicitor and Secretary attended the inquiry, and ascertained that most of the tenders on board had no qualifications for the work, and some of them could not understand a word of English. The ship's officers had made no inquiries of the man's foreign companions as to his disappearance, and they had now dispersed. One of the officers stated that such disappearances were quite common on the Company's ships. On this, an appeal was made by the Board to the Company that certain suggested

steps should be taken to protect the persons and valuables of these hapless people who were so often driven to suicide by their treatment on board. The reply was not satisfactory. The United States Government, however, stepped in and saved the situation by making rules that all cattle-tenders in future must be medically examined by a Government officer, and must be able-bodied, English-speaking, and aware of the nature of the duties for which they were enlisting. These rules were the direct outcome of the representations made by the Board in the previous case.

Voluminous statistics of foreigners in London, showing their distribution; comparative figures in 1891 and 1901; trades pursued by foreigners in London; net effect of the influx of foreigners between 1894 and 1900; comparison of number of immigrants with emigrants; crime among foreigners; foreign Jewish pauperism in this country; Poor Relief given to foreigners; variations in the numbers of general paupers in the years 1884-1900; changes in wages in trades generally, and in trades affected by foreigners, 1888-1900; reductions in hours of labour generally, and particularly in trades affected by foreigners between the same dates; and statistics as to unemployment during the same period;—were prepared by the Solicitor and Secretary for the Board, and published in the year's Report.

1902] As the whole of the time of Mr. Rehfish, the interpreter at the Whitechapel County Court, was at the disposal of the Board, and was not fully occupied except during the sittings of the Court, his spare time was placed at the disposal of the United Synagogue.

An amendment was prepared to the Marriage with Foreigners Bill, a measure intended to protect English women who intermarried with foreigners and to avoid the danger of their finding that their marriages, according to foreign law, were not valid. Unfortunately the Bill proposed to make requisite such certificates of Consuls and other officials as to "no impediment," that the effect would have been to entirely prohibit marriages between Roumanian Jews and English Jewesses (for the Roumanian Jews having, according to Roumanian law, no nationality, had no Consuls or other State officials who could give the certificate), and would in practice prevent the solemnization of mixed Russian and English Jewish marriages. The amendment excluded from the prohibition marriages certified by a Jewish Marriage Secretary whose appointment was certified by the President of the Board. It was felt that in respect of Jewish marriages such inquiries are made by the Jewish Ecclesiastical authorities that the evil which had given rise to the Bill seldom if ever occurred in connection with them. The amendment was accepted.

An Alien Commission was appointed early in the year, and the Board decided that it would undertake the defence of the alien before such body, and instructed its Solicitor and Secretary to compile the necessary evidence, and himself to appear as a witness. He was also instructed to attend all sittings of the Commission, which were held throughout a period of thirteen months. The witnesses who gave evidence at the invitation of the Board numbered fifty-one, including a number of non-Jews. The mass of the evidence was of an industrial nature, showing the advantages of the alien to this country, in the introduction and

fostering of new trades. The Solicitor and Secretary's evidence was mainly statistical, disproving the exaggerated figures which had previously been published, and introducing the figures as to pauperism, etc., collected by the Board.

A further attempt was made by a Provincial Synagogue to get its building certified for marriages, but the Board again intervened and, as on former occasions, with complete success.

Special arrangements were made at Queen's College, Belfast, on the Board's application, to enable Jewish candidates to compete, although some of the papers were set for the Sabbath.

The Board joined with the Anglo-Jewish Association in presenting an illuminated address to King Edward VII on his Coronation.

The prosecutions of Jewish Bakers by their Christian rivals still continued, and the Board memorialized the Home Secretary, showing the hardships existing by reason of the Sunday Observance Prosecutions Act not extending to prosecutions under the Bread Acts, and pointing out that while the Jewish Bakers closed on the Saturday, and were prosecuted for baking on what was for them their sixth day in the week, it was always possible to obtain in London hotels and elsewhere bread baked on Sundays by Christians who had baked on the other six days as well. The Home Secretary promised to consider a Bill proposing to remedy the difficulty, and Mr. Henriques accordingly drafted one. At that point the Bakers came to terms with their prosecutors, and the prosecutions ceased.

A young Jewish lady, who had been brought up by Christian Missionaries in comparative luxury, applied to the Board to know how she could get out

of their hands and rejoin her religion and her poverty-stricken brothers and sisters. She was given the necessary advice, and a small fund was collected to start her in life independent of the Missionaries' assistance.

Permits to foreigners to enter South Africa necessitating the possession of a Consular certificate, Roumanian Jews (and for all practical purposes, Russian and Polish Jews) were *ipso facto* debarred. The Board protested first to the Permit Office, and then to the Foreign Office. The Permit System was abolished and the difficulty disappeared.

The Italian Jews applied for particulars of the Sunday labour laws in England, and the information was supplied.

1903] *Mr. D. L. Alexander, K.C., President*] Early in the year Sir Joseph Sebag-Montefiore, President of the Board, died, and Mr. D. L. Alexander, K.C., was appointed President in his place.

The Aliens Commission presented its report, which was in favour of restriction on immigration. There was a minority report by Lord Rothschild and Sir Kenelm Digby strongly dissenting from the report of the majority in some of its main recommendations. The Board prepared and circulated a pamphlet containing a full discussion of the recommendations, showing the fallacies on which many of them were based as shown by the evidence, and proving that some of the recommendations were fraught with the greatest hardships.

The Board's Factory Notice having become out of print, it was thoroughly revised and re-issued.

On the Board's application, the Sandhurst authorities made arrangements to obviate difficulties arising in the case of Jewish Candidates, owing to

their examinations being fixed for the Sabbath. A similar application to the Society of French Teachers was also successful. The London Hospitals likewise agreed to make satisfactory arrangements for Jews in subsequent years.

A serious question arose under the Cape Colony Immigration Act, 1902, a measure likely to be used as the basis for other Colonial Acts. It placed among "prohibited persons" those unable through deficient education to write out and sign "in the characters of any European language" an application to the satisfaction of the Minister. It was learnt that Russian and Polish immigrants were being rejected who could only write in Yiddish.

A Memorial was therefore submitted to the Agent-General for the Colony, which urged that Yiddish was a European language, the characters of which were Hebrew, and that, consequently, Russian and Polish applicants writing Yiddish and using the Hebrew characters, were writing "in the characters of a European language." An interpretation of the Act in this sense was asked for. In April the Board was notified that its application had been granted.

The intervention of the Foreign Office was successfully enlisted on a sudden outbreak against the Jews at Port Said on a charge of intended Ritual murder. As a result the guilty parties were punished.

A great improvement was effected by the Board in the teaching of English at Mogador, a new school with an English head-master being opened at that town, at the expense of the Morocco Relief Fund.

A terrible massacre of Jews at Kischineff, under the auspices and with the encouragement of the authorities, took place in April. The fullest par-

ticulars were at once sent to *The Times* by the Conjoint Foreign Committee in a letter signed by the Presidents of the two bodies. An appeal for funds was also at once opened and relief given to the sufferers. A further outbreak was anticipated at Christmas. Owing, however, to the publicity given to the intention by the Conjoint Committee, the authorities could not disregard the warning and this further attack on the Jews was abandoned. An outbreak at Gomel, however, was too sudden to be prevented. Relief to the sufferers was afforded out of the Kischineff Fund.

The Board prepared an amendment to Lord Avebury's Early Closing Bill in favour of Jews who kept their shops closed on the Sabbath, and forwarded it to his Lordship.

An attack made on the Jews of Bethnal Green necessitated an appeal to the Chief Commissioner of Police, who undertook that special instructions should be given to the police to afford all necessary protection. The attack was not renewed.

An interesting point under the Factory Acts arose in connection with a Manchester workshop belonging to a trading Corporation employing Jewish workmen and under a Jewish manager. A Factory Inspector ordered it to be closed on Sunday, as Sunday labour was only permitted when the "occupier" was a Jew, and he did not consider the manager to be the occupier. The Board appealed to the Home Office and obtained a decision that in cases where a Company could be fairly classified as a Jewish Company, it could take advantage of the Jewish clauses in the Factory Acts.

A further Synagogue applied this year to have its buildings registered for marriages. The Board

again raised its previous objection, and the application was refused.

The Board took up the case of a Jewish teacher in the employ of the West Ham Education Committee, who was dismissed for being absent from work on the Day of Atonement. On the Board's intervention the dismissal was withdrawn.

1904] At the Triennial Elections held this year, 38 deputies were elected for 22 Metropolitan, 44 for 43 Provincial, and 5 for 5 Colonial Synagogues. The increase of 22 deputies was mainly due to the revision in the Constitution made the previous Session, which reduced the annual assessment of small Congregations to 1s. per male seat-holder.

Information received from the Agent-General of the Cape as to unemployment, led to the Board circulating notices advising intending emigrants not to proceed there.

Two violent anti-Jewish sermons preached by Father Creagh at Limerick, so influenced the local Catholics against the unfortunate Jewish residents, that the latter were frequently assaulted in the streets, and a boycott which the priest urged against the local Jewish traders was strictly enforced. The Board petitioned the Chief Secretary for adequate police protection, and this was promised. A strong letter of appeal was addressed, through the good offices of the Duke of Norfolk, to the Cardinal-Archbishop of Armagh, who in reply severely deprecated all forms of religious intolerance, and promised to bring the Board's letter before the Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick. The Board obtaining no reply from the latter, addressed him personally, asking him to take

the necessary steps to put an end to the boycott. No reply was received beyond a bare acknowledgment. Very different was the attitude of Mr. Michael Davitt, M.P., who did all in his power to assist the Jews. The Board formed a Limerick Committee, and opened a fund for the sufferers from the boycott, and Mr. Joseph Prag, a member of the Committee, proceeded to Limerick to arrange for its distribution.

An endeavour was made to obtain a Treasury grant for the salary of Mr. Rehfish, on the ground that his appointment had, as evidenced by Judge Bacon's report, been of great assistance to the administration of justice at Whitechapel. The application was not successful.

Lord Avebury's Sunday Closing Bill, and Sir Charles Dilke's Shops Bill, were referred to the Law and Parliamentary Committee. They failed to become law.

Attacks were made on Jewish miners at Dowlais, due to jealousy on the part of their fellow-workers, and measures were taken to avoid a repetition of the trouble.

On the Eve of Passover news was received of an intended outbreak against the Jews at Odessa. The Foreign Office was at once informed, and Sir Thomas Sanderson promised that immediate steps should be taken. Within forty-eight hours, the Board was informed through the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, that special orders had been sent from the Minister of the Interior at St. Petersburg to Odessa that the outbreak should be prevented.

The Government's Alien Bill having been introduced, the Board at once considered it, and published a pamphlet showing the Jewish objections

to many of its provisions. The pamphlet showed that the Bill as drafted would enable old-established foreign settlers to be forcibly ejected from their homes in this country without compensation, that it gave power to eject those who arrived without an official passport or certificate of character, which would include all those fleeing from persecution in Russia or Roumania, and that it gave no right of appeal to the rejected. A deputation from the Board waited on the Home Secretary, and stated its objections to various provisions in the measure, and he promised that their view should be considered. The Bill was subsequently withdrawn.

A notice was circulated throughout the provinces informing the Jews that the decision of a Welsh Revising Barrister that the children born in this country of alien parents were not entitled to a vote, was wrong, and advising that steps be taken by persons whose right to a vote was so disputed.

The Board took steps which led to the imprisonment of a Jew rightly suspected of keeping an immoral house.

Arrangements were made for the Board with the Gateshead Education Committee to enable Jewish candidates to compete at their examinations without violating the Sabbath.

The Board intervened to prevent irregularities in the appointments of several provincial Marriage Secretaries.

Amendments were formulated to the Shop Hours Bill which intended to enable early closing orders to be made in the various districts on the application of the Borough Councils. Mr. Stuart Samuel, M.P., took charge of the Board's amend-

ments, which were framed to protect the Jews from special hardships consequent on the provision of the Bill and resulting from the fact that they already closed during the whole of the Sabbath. The amendments were rejected, and the Bill became law.

1905] The Board received £200 under the will of Mr. F. D. Mocatta, being the first legacy which it had received.

Lord Avebury's Sunday Closing Bill was re-introduced, and was found by the Law and Parliamentary Committee to be fraught with the greatest hardship to the poorer classes of Jews. It proposed to repeal the Bread Acts (which permitted the selling of bread up to 1 p.m.), but to permit the unrestricted sale of intoxicants, tobacco, and newspapers. Fish and vegetables for home consumption were only to be sold before 9 a.m. With these and other minor exceptions, Sunday trading was forbidden under penalty of a fine amounting to £5 for the third and subsequent conviction.

A small deputation waited on Lord Avebury, and he promised to consider the Board's suggested amendments. The latter included a ten days' time-limit for prosecutions, incorporated the provisions of the Sunday Observance Act of 1871 which required the consent of certain authorities before a prosecution, and provided for the sale of bread, rolls, etc., up to 9 a.m.

The Board assisted the Whitechapel and Spitalfields Costermongers' Union and the Jewish Master Bakers, etc., to formulate petitions against the measure, and its President and Messrs. H. S. Q. Henriques and B. S. Straus, M.P., gave evidence

before the Select Committee of the House of Lords to which the Bill was referred, and suggested the form of amendments to protect the Jews.

The boycotting of Jews at Limerick at the instance of Father Creagh still continued. The Catholics actually instituted stores in rivalry of the Jews, in which they adopted the very system (weekly payments) which was the basis of their complaint against the Jews. The worst sufferers were helped out of the Limerick Relief Fund, so as to defeat the intention of driving the Jews out of the city.

The objections raised by the Home Office to all claims for naturalization made through one of the large Naturalization Societies in the East End, and the consequential hardship to its members, led to the interposition of the Board. The difficulty was overcome by a change in officials and the Board's supervision of a new set of rules for the Society.

Objection was made to the nomination of a Jewish lad named Schwartz to a £50 Scholarship under the Mitchell Charity on the ground that the boy's father was not naturalized. The Board intervened, and ascertained that the scheme for the regulation of the Charity contained no justification of the rejection, and as no promise of a reconsideration of the ruling could be obtained, an appeal was directed to the Charity Commissioners. After about twelve months' delay, and under pressure of the Commissioners, who adopted the Board's view, the Trustees gave way and tendered the lad his scholarship. Having, however, in the interim won a scholarship of greater value, he was able to decline the belated honour.

The Board intervened to secure modifications

in favour of Jewish traders in the proposed local by-laws regarding Sunday trading in Stepney. The by-laws in question threatened to stop Sunday trading in the old-established markets in the East End.

Relief was granted from the Kischineff fund to the families of Russian Jewish reservists whose breadwinners had been called up to serve against the Japanese, and further amounts were dispensed among the widows and orphans of those killed. Outbreaks against the Jews occurred at Gitomir, Melitopol, and elsewhere, and the Board's protest to the Foreign Office led to representations being made through the British Ambassador

A fresh Aliens Bill was introduced this year, and was the subject of a detailed report which advocated various essential amendments. A copy of the report was sent to every Member of Parliament, the leading newspapers, and to the principal officers of every provincial synagogue, asking the latter to bring the Jewish view of the necessary amendments before their local Member. Three thousand copies were circulated in Manchester alone. Sir Charles Dilke consented to take charge of the amendment which provided a loophole for the admission of victims of persecution abroad. Mr. Robson took charge of an amendment providing a right of appeal for rejected aliens, and steps were taken to see that the other amendments asked for by the Board, were placed before Parliament. Owing to the Bill being pressed through Parliament on purely party lines, the Board's amendments were ignored, except that by the help of Lord Hugh Cecil and other Members of Parliament, and as the result of an interview between the President and the Premier, a modified

clause in favour of political and persecuted refugees was inserted in the Act as passed.

An attack having been made on the Jewish method of slaughter (*Shecheta*) in the report of an Admiralty Committee, presided over by Mr. Lee, the Board appointed a Committee to prepare a report, on the basis of the highest scientific and medical evidence which could be procured, in defence of such method. As a result, a thorough and detailed report, accompanied by unimpeachable evidence based on actual experiments made, was prepared and printed. Publication, however, was not to be made until the Jewish method should be actually threatened.

A presentation of plate was made by the Board to Mr. Charles H. L. Emanuel, Solicitor and Secretary, for special services given to the Board in connection with the Aliens Statistics, and evidence on *Shecheta* and other matters during the past seven years.

The Board's Report on *Shecheta* was soon to be utilized. In July new slaughter-house by-laws were brought forward by the Corporation of Liverpool, one of which provided that all animals should be stunned or otherwise rendered unconscious before blood was drawn. The Board intervened and procured the insertion of a proviso that such by-laws should not apply to animals slaughtered according to the Jewish method.

The Glasgow Corporation applied to the Secretary for Scotland to confirm Early Closing By-laws under which the local butchers would have had to close their shops early on Saturday nights. The Board petitioned the Secretary, showing that this would mean ruin to the local Jewish butchers,

particularly in the summer months when Sabbath went out at from 8 to 9 p.m., and meat not sold before sunset on the previous Friday would inevitably perish by the Monday. It was shown that the shop hours of the Jewish trader already compared favourably with their non-Jewish competitors, for he actually closed on sixty-five days per year on which his competitors were doing business. The difficulty was ultimately settled to the satisfaction of the Jewish butchers by an arrangement with the local Butchers' Association.

1906] The year commenced with the memorable Public Meeting at Queen's Hall, at which resolutions of strong protest were passed against the brutal treatment of the Jews of Russia. The meeting was undenominational, and almost all the speakers were non-Jews. At the same time the Conjoint Bodies opened a Fund for the sufferers.

An outbreak at Bialystock led to an interview with the Foreign Office, and within a few days assurances were received from Russia that stern steps would be taken to repress any further attacks, and the Governor and Police were warned that any disorders must be anticipated.

A few months later there was another outbreak, this time at Siedlce, which was obviously arranged by the military. The police arrested the attacked, instead of the attackers. The military instigators of the attack were constituted the judges of the arrested victims. The Conjoint Presidents at once laid the facts before the Foreign Office, and published a strong letter of protest in *The Times*. As a result the Minister of the Interior sent instructions that "the trial should be humanely conducted."

A new Scheme was promulgated by the Trustees of the Aldgate and All Hallows' Foundation, the result of which would be to exclude children of foreign-born, non-naturalized parents from competing for its valuable exhibitions. The Board investigated the Foundation and Scheme, and advised that the alteration was illegal. A petition was addressed to the Board of Education to refuse to sanction the alteration. The Petition was entirely successful, and the threatened exclusion was averted.

The Board protested to the Chairman of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund that the East End Mothers' Home had decided to prohibit the performance of the Jewish rite of circumcision on Jewish children born in their Home. As a result pressure was brought to bear, and the Home authorities consented to permit the operation if performed by a qualified medical man.

The Rules published under the Aliens Act were found to be so harshly and improperly interpreted that in many cases, as administered, they caused the greatest hardships to the unfortunate immigrants. From time to time these cases were detected, and the Board then intervened and reported the facts to the Home Office. The Act, however, had been so framed, that in many cases of special hardship and injustice there was no remedy.

In October a full memorial as to the defects in the working of the Act and its rules, was addressed to the Home Office. It was found that, as anticipated, the Act proved no bar to the entry of the criminal and depraved. The whole machinery of exclusion was directed against the industrial class, and an untrained wastrel with £5 in his pocket had an infinitely greater chance of being permitted to enter than a highly skilled workman with a

pound or so less money to produce. The principal points dealt with in the memorial were (1) the want of uniformity in the decisions of the Immigration Board, (2) the absence of means for adjourning the sittings of the Boards, even in vital cases, (3) the unsatisfactory system of collecting evidence, (4) the failure to give refugees "the benefit of the doubt."

The Transvaal and Orange River Colonies decided not to count the characters of Yiddish as the characters of a European language for the purpose of the Education test on the admission of aliens, and the Board's intervention was not successful in persuading the Governor of the Colonies to alter his decision.

A Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament was appointed to consider the question of Sunday Closing. The Board asked the Government for assurances that Jewish interests would be properly conserved in the personnel of the Committee, and was gratified when such assurance was given by the appointment of Mr. Stuart Samuel as a member of the Committee. The Board collected a mass of evidence in support of the Jewish aspect of the matter, and nominated a number of witnesses to prove the same before the Committee. As a result the evidence of the Chief Rabbi, Mr. D. L. Alexander (President), Mr. H. S. Q. Henriques (Vice-President), Sir S. Montagu, Mr. B. S. Straus, M.P., and eleven other Jewish witnesses, was heard. The Solicitor and Secretary attended all meetings of the Committee. When a certain number of pro-Jewish witnesses had been heard, and the evidence of others was tendered, the Board was informed officially that "the Jews had made out their case," and that further evidence was unnecessary. The essence of the pro-Jewish evidence was that

ruin that would befall the poor Jewish trader, if compelled to close both on the Saturday and the Sunday, particularly as he also kept closed on the numerous Jewish Holy Days. A strong plea was therefore raised of a special provision in favour of those Jews who kept closed on the Jewish Sabbath. In favour of this, the following notable statements were made in evidence given by witnesses who had *not* been called to support the Jewish case. The Vicar of St. John's, Walworth, stated, "If I could have *one day of rest out of seven* for every person I should be satisfied." The Rev. Prebendary Dalton (Public Welfare Society of Stepney), "Let the Jewish shops be open on Sundays, provided they are closed on Saturdays." The representative of the Master Bakers (a non-Jewish Association) was in favour of Jews trading on Sundays, if they confined their trade to Jews. All these views coincided with what the Board asked for. The voting of the Committee was so close that there was an equal division on a motion that no alteration of the existing law was necessary. The Committee advised, as a solution of the Jewish objection, that in certain market areas which were largely inhabited by Jews, those Jews who closed on Saturdays should be permitted to trade on Sunday till noon. The Board strongly objected to this recommendation, on the ground (*inter alia*) that it would constitute Ghettos into which all Jews who wished to trade on six days in the week would be forced to crowd.

The Board obtained from the Hull Education Authorities the right for a Jewish pupil teacher to observe the Jewish Holy Days, a right which she had been unable to obtain personally.

The authorities controlling the *Entente Cordiale* Examinations made special arrangements for Jews, at the Board's request.

In view of threatened Sunday legislation in Canada, the Board furnished the Jewish authorities in Montreal with the necessary data and documents as to the Statutes, etc., in this country.

The Education Bill of this year was referred to the Law and Parliamentary Committee, which found several serious blemishes in the proposed measure. A working Committee of representatives from the Board and from the other Jewish organizations interested in Education was formed, and such Joint Committee prepared the necessary amendments. They were mainly entrusted to Sir Philip Magnus, M.P., and Mr. B. S. Straus, M.P., but the size of the Government majority made all but Government amendments practically hopeless. The Bill failed to become law.

Various other Bills in Parliament were dealt with by the Law and Parliamentary Committee.

A full statement as to the emancipation of the Jews in this country was prepared by Mr. H. S. Q. Henriques, at the Board's request, and forwarded to Mr. Sokolon in Russia for his use in connection with steps towards the emancipation of the Jews in that country.

The London Schools' Swimming Association consented to alter the date of its competition from a Saturday, so as to admit Jewish competitors.

The Marriages with Foreigners Act passed into law, with the Jewish protective clause included.

The Board held its first Annual Meeting in December. It was well attended by members of the Board, and special delegates invited from

the Constituent Synagogues. All matters referred to in the Board's Annual Report were open to discussion.

1907] At the Triennial election held this year 43 Deputies were elected for 27 Metropolitan, 67 for 66 Provincial, and 4 for 4 Colonial Synagogues.

The question of the unnecessary and improper difference made in the form of oath as administered in a number of the Courts and by many Commissioners to Jews, was the subject of a memorial to the Lord Chancellor begging him to issue instructions forbidding the distinction.

The Board studied the Weekly Rest Day Bill. Negotiations were opened with the promoters, with the result that they inserted provisions giving exemptions from penalties for Sunday trading to Jewish traders who kept closed on the Sabbath. The Bill failed to become law this year.

A presentation was made by the members of the Board to its President, Mr. D. L. Alexander, consisting of his portrait in full robes. The presentation was made in recognition of his unremitting zeal and his constant attention to the work of the Board.

An address was presented by the Conjoint Bodies to the Shah of Persia, in which he was asked to take under his protection the Persian Jews, as had been done by his late father. His Majesty's goodwill was soon evinced in the manner in which, when outbreaks against the Jews at Ispahan, Teheran, and Kermanshah were notified to him by the British Chargé d'Affaires (on complaint of the Conjoint Committee), he at once took steps to quell the disorders.

In February the Home Office replied to the

Board's representations of the previous July and October as to the working of the Aliens Act and Rules. The answer was unsatisfactory, the only remedy offered being the substitution of a more convenient site for the sittings of the London Immigration Board.

A Vigilance Committee was appointed to co-operate with the Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women, on the White Slave Traffic Question.

A terrible outbreak in Roumania overwhelmed the Jews of that country. The outbreak was agrarian and not anti-Semitic in origin, but it was purposely directed later against the Jews for political reasons. It was remarkable that, though the military were never on the spot to protect the Jews, as soon as the Government got alarmed at the extent of the lawlessness, and gave the necessary orders, the revolution ceased. The disorders reduced many Jewish families to ruin. A fund was at once opened, and a memorial on the Jewish Question in Roumania was forwarded to the Foreign Office, in which it was urged that until the Jews were given civil and religious equality in Roumania, in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, they would always be exposed to these attacks. The Memorial was followed by a Deputation. The Deputation was assured that, for reasons stated, it would be a most inopportune moment for intervention.

An inroad of Moors from the interior into the towns of Morocco was followed, at Casablanca, by the sack of the Jewish quarter. The refugees fled to Algenciras and Linea, where the overcrowding gave rise to fears of an epidemic. The Conjoint Bodies raised a Relief Fund, and the refugees

were gradually returned as Morocco quieted down and their safety was assured.

The question of the granting of irregular Jewish Divorces by foreign Rabbis in this country was the subject of a report by the Law and Parliamentary Committee. The question had long vexed the Board, but beyond reprimanding the Rabbi in each case and warning the parties of the danger of re-marrying after these so-called but ineffective Divorces, the Board was helpless. The Committee advised that severe penalties be imposed by legislation on those taking part in these ceremonies.

A Deputation in which the Board took part waited on the Prime Minister in July, on the question of the reduction of the naturalization fees. The answer was sympathetic, but at the end of 1910 the fees still remain as before.

The President tendered his services as Hon. Arbitrator, to settle certain Communal differences at Blackpool, and duly delivered his award on the basis of which the two conflicting bodies of worshippers were reunited. The same result followed a similar arbitration at Woolwich.

In October, in view of the small consideration given to refugees from persecution abroad and the unsatisfactory procedure at the immigrants' appeals, a resolution was forwarded to the Prime Minister and other principal officers of State, asking for a repeal of the clauses of the Aliens Act which led to the injustice, and that steps in the meantime be taken to secure that *bona fide* refugees from religious or political persecutions should be exempted from exclusion as was intended by the Act, and that proper procedure should be adopted to allow of the fair presenta-

tion and interpretation of evidence on the Appeals.

The Board successfully protested to the Local Government Board against local objections raised to the election of a Jew as Medical Officer for a district of Leeds.

A number of Factory Bills were considered by the Board, and to the only one which had a likelihood of passing, the Board framed clauses in protection of Jewish interests. None of these Bills became law.

Leave of absence on the Jewish holidays, refused to a Post Office employee on her personal petition, was granted on the Board's application.

A Jewish pupil teacher at the East Ham Technical College was ordered to resign, unless he attended classes on the Sabbath. The Board intervened, and as a result an arrangement was made by which the teacher was transferred to the L.C.C. centre, where there was no work on the Sabbath. The Board thought it right to protest that although the solution was satisfactory in this case, it still left unsatisfied cases in which such a transfer might be impossible.

1908] The Board prepared and presented to the Prime Minister a memorial, asking for—

(1) The establishment of Receiving Homes for Aliens at the Immigration ports.

(2) The right of appeal from the Immigration Boards to the King's Bench Division.

(3) The revision of the list of members of the Immigration Boards.

(4) Better provision for the interpretation and presentation of evidence.

The memorial was signed by the officers of the

Board and some sixty other leading and representative Jews, including eleven Jewish Members of Parliament.

A long correspondence then ensued between the Home Secretary (to whom, also, a copy of the memorial had been dispatched), his successor, Mr. Asquith, and the Board, on the above-mentioned points. This correspondence was shortly followed by the Government introducing the Port of London Bill, which contained an inadequate provision for the establishment of a Receiving Home at such Port, such provision being permissive only instead of compulsory. The Board lodged a petition against the clause in question as insufficient, and as a result the Government accepted the principle urged by the Board, and accepted with a slight variation the alternative clause which the Board framed. The Bill became law, but it still remains for the Secretary of State to put the clause in question into operation.

Cases of special hardship under the Act were reported to the Home Secretary, and in some, relief was obtained.

A number of Bills in Parliament were dealt with by the Law and Parliamentary Committee. Objection was raised to Sir Charles Dilke's Shops Bill, which contained stringent Sunday Trading clauses, a statement of the Jewish views on Lord Avebury's Sunday Closing Bill was transmitted to his Lordship, and an amendment, absolving from penalties Jews trading on a Sunday up to 3 p.m., provided they had kept their shops closed on the Sabbath, was entrusted to Lord Swaythling. His Lordship, however, learnt that the Bill would not be further proceeded with that Session, and accordingly advised that it would

be unwise to divide the House on the Board's amendment. The Bill in question failed to become law. The Joint Education Committee carefully watched the progress of the Education Bill of this year, and the necessary amendments were framed, but the Bill failed to become law.

The President acted as Hon. Arbitrator in Communal differences at Gateshead.

A further case of alleged irregular marriage was dealt with.

The Board's views as to the humanity of the Jewish method of slaughter for food was acknowledged in a circular issued by the Board of Trade to the various Borough Councils, which contained suggestions as to a model set of by-laws as to slaughtering for food, and made provision in the same for the Jewish method as an exception from the general rule that all animals must be rendered unconscious before being killed.

On the Board's application, concessions were granted to enable Jewish candidates to compete at the Civil Service (2nd Division Clerks') Examinations.

The Vigilance Committee appointed last year co-operated with the two non-Jewish bodies interested in the subject of the White Slave Traffic, and as a result of their deliberations, and acting on the report of a Sub-Committee of three (among whom were the Board's President and Mr. H. S. Q. Henriques, one of its Vice-Presidents), two Bills were framed destined to strengthen the hands of those endeavouring to put a stop to the traffic, and increasing the penalties for the offences.

The Conjoint Foreign Committee made a great attempt to get the question of the legal position of the Roumanian Jews placed on the Agenda

of the Conference of Powers, which was, in October, likely to be convened to settle the territorial dispute between Servia and Russia, and for this purpose a Memorandum was prepared, containing a detailed statement of the question from 1858 to date, showing the provisions made in the Treaty of Berlin, the negotiations of the British Government to secure complete emancipation of the Jews in 1879-1880, the compromise effected in the latter year, the violation of the terms of the Conference by Roumania treating all her Jews as aliens and imposing restrictive legislation on them as such, a recital of the disabilities with which the Jews were gradually overwhelmed, and ending with an appeal to Great Britain to insist on Roumania complying not only with its obligations, but with a principle adopted by all the States of south-east Europe, Roumania only excepted. The Committee received a sympathetic reply, which showed that the question was still regarded as a living one, but events which happened avoided the necessity of the Conference being summoned.

1909] The Joint Vigilance Committee organized a Deputation to the Home Secretary on the subject of the White Slave Traffic. The Deputation was introduced by Lord Braye. The President of the Board presented the case for the amendment of the law, and submitted the Bills which the Joint Committee had framed. Among the other speakers were the Bishop of London and the Bishop of Southwark. The Home Secretary assured the Deputation that the Government would do its best within the next year to strengthen the law. Later it was learnt that the Government would regard favourably a private Member's Bill

on the subject, and the Joint Committee remodelled into a single Bill the two Bills which it had framed.

On the Board's representations, the Sheriff exempted from service on the second day of Passover a Jew summoned to serve on a jury at Plymouth on that day.

The Pharmaceutical Society consented to make special arrangements for two Jewish Candidates, some of whose papers were set for the Day of Atonement.

The Civil Service Commissioners made similar arrangements.

In view of the reintroduction of Sir Charles Dilke's Shops Bill, which *inter alia* provided for the compulsory closing of all shops on Sundays, the Board sent him a full statement of the hardships which the measure would inflict on Jews who closed on the Sabbath. Sir Charles promised that this point of view should be fully considered. The Bill was later withdrawn.

A Government Oaths Bill was introduced in a form which would have secured the elimination of the special and objectionable form of Oath which was commonly and improperly administered to Jews, against which the Board had protested. Amendments, however, were introduced in the House of Lords which revived the old difficulty, and the Board thereupon, through Mr. D. L. Alexander, K.C., made representations to the Lord Chief Justice as to further amendments which were necessary. His Lordship took charge of such amendments, and the Bill passed into law in a form which entirely removed the Board's grievance.

Steps were taken by the Board which resulted in

a further Shops Bill, which was directed against Sunday trading and made no provision for Jews, failing to become law.

An amendment was prepared, and was accepted by Mr. Jowett, to the Factory Bill which stood in his name and which purported to make illegal employment in certain Factories between noon on Saturday and Monday morning. The amendment followed the Jewish provisions in the Factory Acts.

The Heywood Corporation Bill contained a clause enabling the Corporation to make by-laws controlling Sunday trade within its boundaries. The Board entered objections, and the clause in question was abandoned.

The Chief Commissioner of Police having under his consideration by-laws likely to affect the Sunday trading of costermongers, the Board made application to him to take into consideration the case of the Jewish costers who did not trade on the Sabbath, and who would lose two days' trade a week if they were forced to abstain from selling on the Sunday also. The by-laws were dropped.

Warned by information received that a paper dealing with the slaughter of animals for food would be read at a Humanitarian Conference at Caxton Hall, the Solicitor and Secretary attended, and protested against an attack made on the Jewish methods, showing that such methods had been proved to be most humane, and that they had met with the approval of the Local Government Board.

A communication was made to the Passport Office and Foreign Office as to the ill-effects of the limitations made in Colonial Grants of naturalization, whereby such grants were inefficacious outside the boundaries of the particular Colony in which

they were made. It is satisfactory to notice that the subject has been deemed a fit one for discussion at the next Imperial Conference to be held in 1911.

Advice was given to Marriage Secretaries and others on difficult questions of marriage and divorce law.

Information as to new Regulations relating to the requirement of evidence of means on the part of emigrants to South Africa was circulated in the proper quarters.

Steps were successfully taken to impede the formation of a Jewish Political Club in a provincial city.

The parents of a weak-minded foreign lad, who had been imprisoned for a month and recommended for deportation, were assisted to petition that in view of the lad's mental condition he should not be deported. The application was successful.

A similar recommendation for deportation against a stowaway, with an otherwise irreproachable record, led to a memorial from the Board asking that no deportation order be made. The application was successful.

The Board petitioned the Board of Trade that Jewish interests should be properly safeguarded in the selection of the members of the Wages Boards, which were about to be formed to regulate wages in certain industries.

Successful applications were made to Trinity College, and St. John's College, Cambridge, for arrangements to be made at their Scholarship Examinations for Jewish candidates.

1910] At the Triennial Election held this year, 43 deputies were elected for 27 Metropolitan, 74 for 73 Provincial, and 4 for 4 Colonial Synagogues.

The President arbitrated in a long-standing dispute, which had practically ruined a Provincial Congregation, and delivered his award.

The National Shorthand Association, on the Board's representations, made special provision at their examinations to avoid requiring Jewish candidates to compete on the Sabbath, and for that purpose instituted two Wednesday Examinations for each year.

In view of the Government having stated that its first domestic legislation would be the introduction of a Shops Bill in a form which had already been published, the Board dispatched a long memorial to the Home Secretary, contending how the system of Ghettos, which the provisions of the Bill would introduce, would be harmful from every point of view, showing in detail how the provisions which purported to modify the Sunday Closing clauses in the Bill in favour of the Jews would most seriously affect small Jewish traders, and suggesting an amendment by which Jews who kept their shops closed on the Sabbath might open on Sundays up to 3 p.m., provided they only employed Jewish labour on that day. It is notable that, in view of the importance of the measure to the Jews, the Law and Parliamentary Committee, to whom the matter was referred, asked the Jewish Members of Parliament to confer with it on the subject. A large number of them complied, and the Board's memorial met with their unanimous approval. The Bill was duly introduced without any modification, and the Committee, with the approval of the Members of Parliament, asked the Home Secretary to receive a Deputation on the subject. The Deputation was received on the 27th September. It was introduced by Lord Swaythling.

Messrs. D. L. Alexander, K.C., H. S. Q. Henriques, and Lionel de Rothschild, M.P., presented the Jewish case. The Home Secretary was most sympathetic, and promised full consideration of the Board's suggested amendment. At his request a small committee was nominated to confer with him again later.

The Board conducted further correspondence with the Home Office as to the administration of the Aliens Act, which resulted in Mr. Churchill's providing rules that an alien should be permitted legal assistance and representation on his appeal, authorizing the Board to suggest new members for appointment on the Immigration Boards, and announcing the appointment of a Committee to consider the question of the institution of a receiving house under the Port of London Bill, on which Committee Mr. D. L. Alexander, K.C., as President of the Board, was asked to sit. Mr. Alexander consented. The Board suggested that the provision as to legal assistance should be modified so as to permit of "legal or other assistance," it being thought that by this means the cost of the employment of a lawyer might be avoided, but so far the suggestion has not been adopted. The Board has nominated three gentlemen for election on the Immigration Boards, and their appointments have been confirmed. The Board is now making arrangements for the provision of legal aid for alien immigrants on their appeals at London.

On the death of King Edward VII, a joint deputation from the Board and the Anglo-Jewish Association was received by His Majesty King George V, when an address of condolence and congratulation was read, and His Majesty's written reply received. The right of reading an address

and receiving a written reply was only accorded to two of the "Unprivileged" bodies.

Mr. Jowett's Factory Bill, as reintroduced, contained the Board's clauses enabling Jewish occupiers of factories and workshops who kept closed on the Sabbath to open after sunset on Saturdays and on Sundays.

Several Christian head masters of Schools in Ireland complained to the Board that the Intermediate Education Board of Ireland had fixed its examinations for the Feast of Weeks, and that some twenty-seven Jewish candidates were thereby precluded from competing. They had notified the impediment several months before the examination, but could obtain no satisfaction. The Board, thereupon, made a formal application for relief. The Commissioners after a month's delay refused on grounds which the Board considered unreasonable. Application was therefore made to Mr. Birrell direct, and in a few weeks the Board was informed that the concessions asked for had been granted.

In view of the appointment of a Divorce Commission, the Board seized the opportunity and asked to be heard through the Chief Rabbi and Messrs. D. L. Alexander, K.C., and H. S. Q. Henriques, on the subject of the prevalence of Jewish divorces. These so-called divorces were generally granted in this country by foreign rabbis to persons who believed they were effective and constituted valid legal divorces, and who were ignorant that a subsequent re-marriage would constitute bigamy. The Commission has promised to hear the evidence. The remedy sought is a clause to be inserted in a Bill penalizing every person performing these so-called divorces except on production of a decree absolute of a competent Court or Authority.

The question of the invidious distinctions made in the case of Jews desirous of travelling in Russia (referred to on page 130) was again raised, but in view of the decided attitude hitherto taken by the Foreign Office as to the construction of the treaty governing passport relations with Russia, it was felt hopeless to intervene at present.

The question of the treatment of the Roumanian Jews was kept alive during this year, but conditions were not propitious for any active steps.

An attack made on the Jews of Hamadam, resulting from a false accusation, led to the wounding of thirty of their number. The Foreign Office on the Board's appeal sent instructions to the Chargé d'Affaires at the city to intervene in conjunction with the French representative, and this was satisfactorily done.

An outbreak at Shiraz against the Jews was the subject of representations to the Foreign Office, which at once co-operated with the French Government in bringing pressure to bear which remedied the evil.

News reached the Conjoint Foreign Committee as to the threatened expulsion of a large number of Jewish families from Kieff, and representations made to the Foreign Office on the subject were sympathetically received. A full investigation of the circumstances was obtained by the British Government, and it was learnt that in 1907 the Russian Government had issued an order enabling Jews who had, without legal right, settled in the city before 1906, to remain there on sufferance and under certain conditions, and that many of the legal settlers in the same city had understood the order as applying to them also, and consequently had neglected to comply with certain

requirements essential to their residence. The Government was therefore investigating the title of these "legal" settlers, and this had given rise to the rumours of expulsions which were undoubtedly pending.

The Board gave instructions to the Solicitor and Secretary to obtain the earliest possible copies of all Public Bills introduced into either House, and if any of them on perusal are found to contain provisions likely to specially affect the Jews he is to refer them to the President for action.

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